

X-MEN

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THE STRANGEST TEENS OF ALL!

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# X-MEN

I'M AS  
POWERFUL  
AS *ALL* THE  
X-MEN *PUT  
TOGETHER*--

--SO I'M  
*TAKING OVER*  
THIS COMBO--  
AS OF *NOW!*

OVER OUR  
*DEAD  
BODIES,*  
MISTER!

ONE OF MARVEL'S *GREATEST!*  
THE *MIND-STAGGERING*  
**MENACE**  
OF THE  
**MIMIC!**

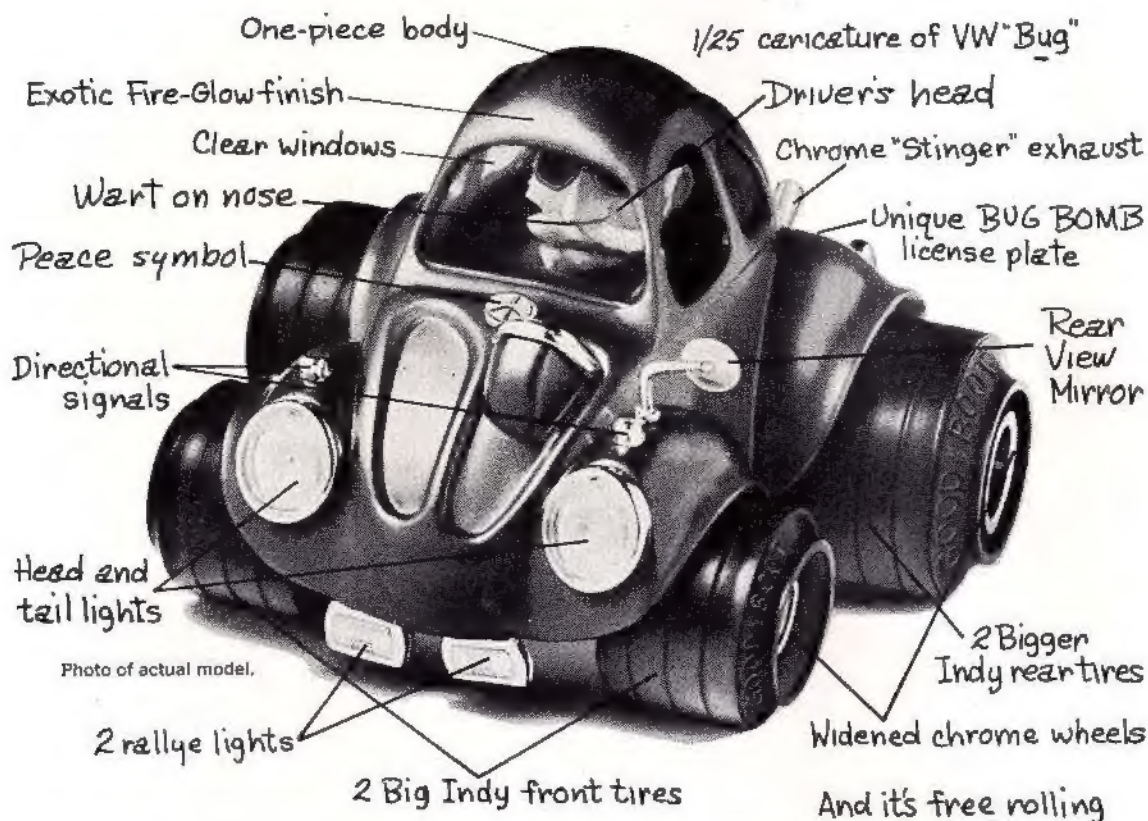


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# **The SUPREME SACRIFICE!**

IN WHICH A LIFE IS LOST...  
--A BATTLE WON!



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LAST ISH, WE SAW THE AMAZING PROFESSOR XAVIER'S ASTRAL IMAGE DRIVEN FROM THE SENTINELS' FORTRESS BY DEADLY MICRO-ELECTRIC BLASTS...

JUST MADE IT! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, AND I'D HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF MY PHYSICAL FORM AGAIN!



MY X-MEN ARE PRISONERS OF THE GIGANTIC SENTINELS, WITHIN THAT DEADLY FORTRESS...



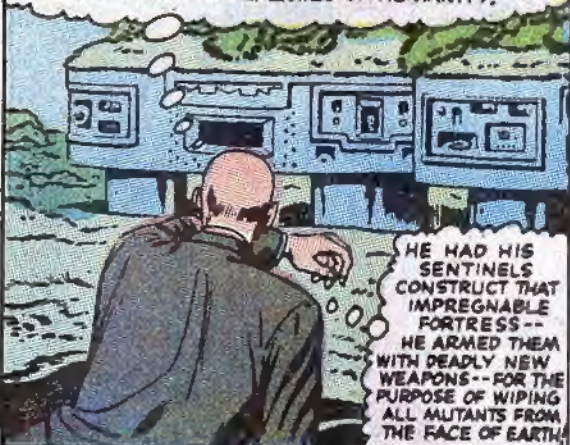
...WHILE I LIE HELPLESSLY OUTSIDE-- UNABLE TO HELP THEM-- HARDLY ABLE TO DEFEND MYSELF!

BUT, I CANNOT FAIL THEM NOW! IT WAS I WHO ORGANIZED THEM-- WHO INSPIRED THEM TO RISK THEIR LIVES FOR MANKIND--



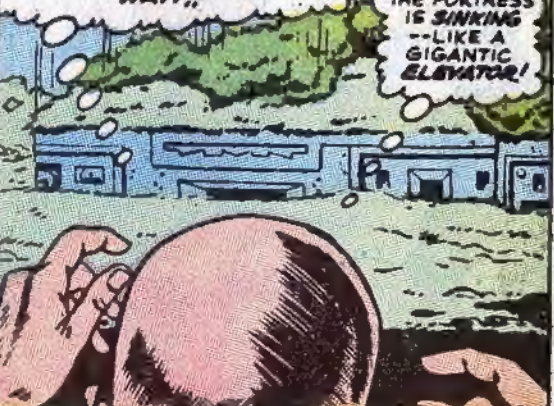
--FOR THE SAME HUMAN RACE WHICH NOW HATES AND FEARS THEM-- ALL BECAUSE OF DR. TRASK AND HIS SENTINELS!

TRASK BELIEVED HE WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING! HE THOUGHT ALL MUTANTS WERE MENACES! HE CREATED THE SENTINELS TO DESTROY US, THINKING WE WERE THE ENEMIES OF HUMANITY!



HE HAD HIS SENTINELS CONSTRUCT THAT IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS-- HE ARMED THEM WITH DEADLY NEW WEAPONS--FOR THE PURPOSE OF WIPING ALL MUTANTS FROM THE FACE OF EARTH!

HE WAS TOO BLIND, TOO FANATICAL TO REALIZE THAT THERE ARE BOTH GOOD AND BAD MUTANTS-- TO REALIZE THAT HIS SENTINELS ARE THE REAL THREAT TO--



THE FORTRESS IS SINKING --LIKE A GIGANTIC ELEVATOR!

IT'S COMPLETELY HIDDEN AGAIN-- CAMOUFLAGED BY A DECEPTIVE MOUND OF EARTH!



NOW MY X-MEN ARE COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM ANY AID I MIGHT GIVE THEM!

THIS MEANS THAT THE MOST DANGEROUS SENTINEL OF ALL-- THE GARGANTUAN MASTER MOLD, CAN CONTINUE TO CREATE MORE SENTINELS-- UNTIL THEY OVER-RUN ALL OF EARTH!



--UNLESS I CAN STOP HIM! AND I WILL-- IF IT COSTS ME MY VERY LIFE!

BACK IN THE CITY THERE IS A FALLEN SENTINEL! IF I CAN FIND OUT WHY HE FELL, I'LL HAVE THE KEY TO THEIR DEFEAT!

REMEMBER HIM FROM X-MEN #18? --STAN.



DESPERATELY, PAINFULLY, DISREGARDING THE AGONY OF HIS INJURED BODY, THE CRIPPLED MUTANT TIRELESSLY CRAWLS INCH AFTER INCH, UNTIL HE REACHES...

THE HIGHWAY--  
AT LAST! NOW  
TO STOP THE  
FIRST PASSING  
CAR--!

A BASIC  
TELEPATHIC  
COMMAND  
WILL DO THE  
TRICK! NO  
NORMAL  
HUMAN CAN  
RESIST!

SLOW  
DOWN!  
STOP ONE  
HUNDRED  
YARDS  
AHEAD!

SECONDS LATER...

SURE IS  
LUCKY WE  
SAW YOU,  
FELLA!  
WHAT  
HAPPENED?

NO TIME TO  
EXPLAIN NOW!  
YOU MUST  
DRIVE ME TO  
THE CITY!

SURE! WE'LL BE  
GLAD TO!

THERE'S SOMETHING  
ABOUT HIM-- IT  
SEEMS TO FORCE  
US TO OBEY!

KINDA  
STRANGE THE  
WAY WE  
SLOWED DOWN  
IN TIME!  
ALMOST  
LIKE WE  
KNEW HE'D  
BE THERE!

MEANWHILE, BACK WITHIN THE NOW-HIDDEN FORTRESS, WE FIND...

NOW WHAT HAVE  
THEY DONE TO US??  
IT'S HARD TO MOVE  
IN HERE-- LIKE MY  
MUSCLES ARE MADE  
OF LEAD!

YOU'RE RIGHT!  
SOMETHING IS  
PRESSING US DOWN--  
SAPPING OUR  
STRENGTH!

I CAN'T EVEN  
FLY TO THE TOP--  
MY WINGS CAN  
HARDLY FLAP  
IN HERE!

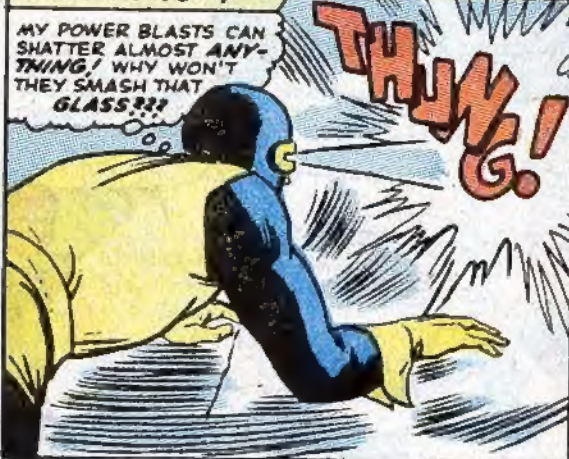
THERE'S ONLY  
ONE ANSWER--  
THEY'VE FOUND  
A WAY TO INCREASE  
THE WEIGHT OF  
GRAVITY WITHIN  
THE GLOBE! AND  
THERE'S NO WAY  
FOR US TO FIGHT  
IT!

BUT, THE BIG  
QUESTION IS-- WHERE  
ARE THEY TAKING US  
TO NOW-- AND WHY?

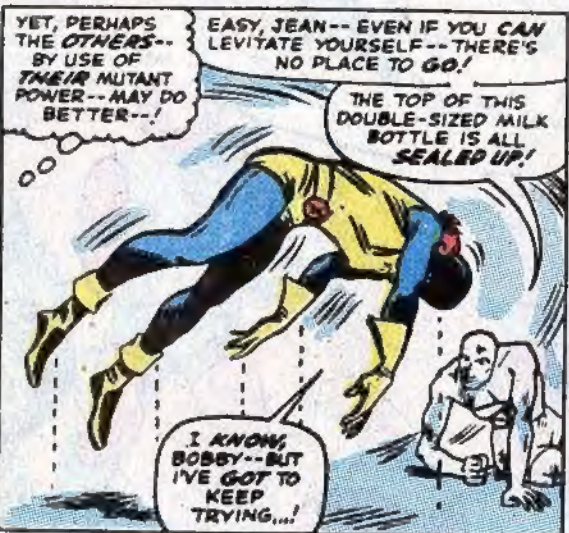
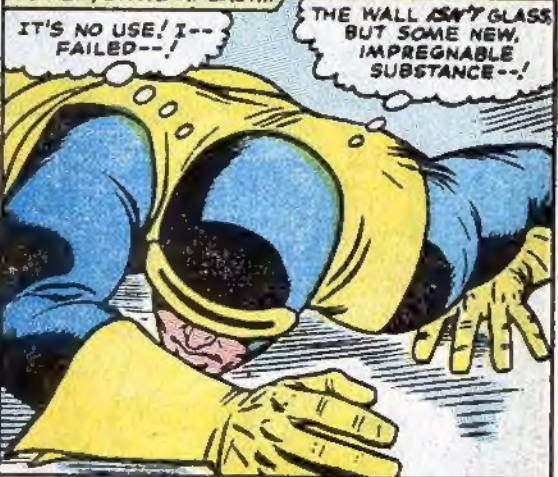




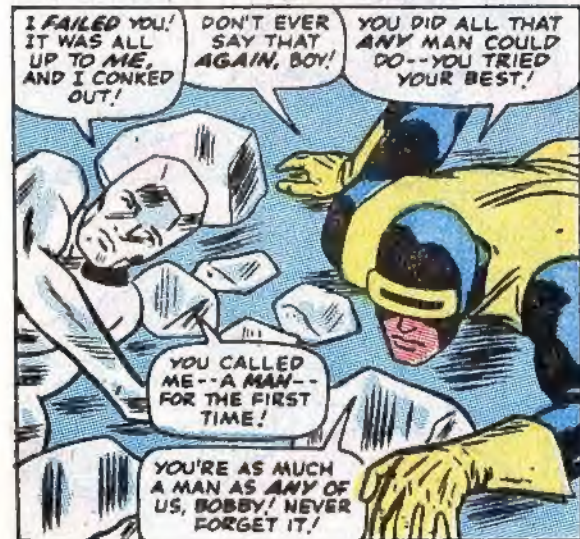
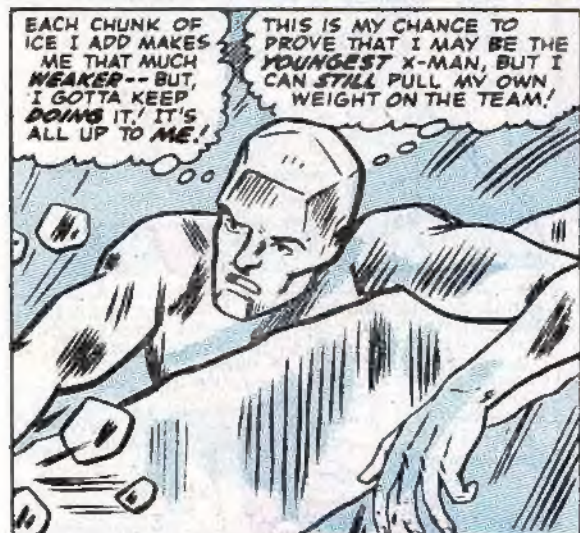
BUT, INSIDE THE SEEMINGLY ESCAPE-PROOF PRISON, THE "MERE HUMANS" WITHIN ARE DETERMINED THAT IF THEY MUST BE DEFEATED, THEY'LL GO DOWN **FIGHTING--!**



FOR LONG, ANGUISHED MINUTES, THE DEDICATED DEPUTY LEADER UNLEASHES HIS AWESOME POWER, UNTIL AT LAST...









AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER CHAMBER OF THE VAST FORTRESS, THE AWESOME MASTER MOLD CONCLUDES HIS EXAMINATION OF THE UNCONSCIOUS BEAST...

I NEED LEARN NO MORE ABOUT HIM! I REALIZE NOW THAT THE X-MEN DO NOT POSSESS THE POWER TO HARM US!

WAIT! WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH HIM...?

HE SHALL BE IMPRISONED WITH THE OTHER CAPTIVE MUTANTS, AS THE MASTER MOLD HAS COMMANDED!

THEN, AT MY PLEASURE, THEY WILL ALL BE DESTROYED! FOR THAT IS THE PURPOSE YOU YOURSELF HAVE PROGRAMMED INTO OUR COMPUTERIZED BRAINS!

NO! NO! I WAS WRONG! I REALIZE THAT NOW! THEY AREN'T MENACES TO MANKIND-- IT'S YOU WHO ARE! THEY MUSTN'T BE HARMED--!

SILENCE! THOUGH YOU CREATED US, YOU ARE MERELY A HUMAN! YOU TOO MUST OBEY!

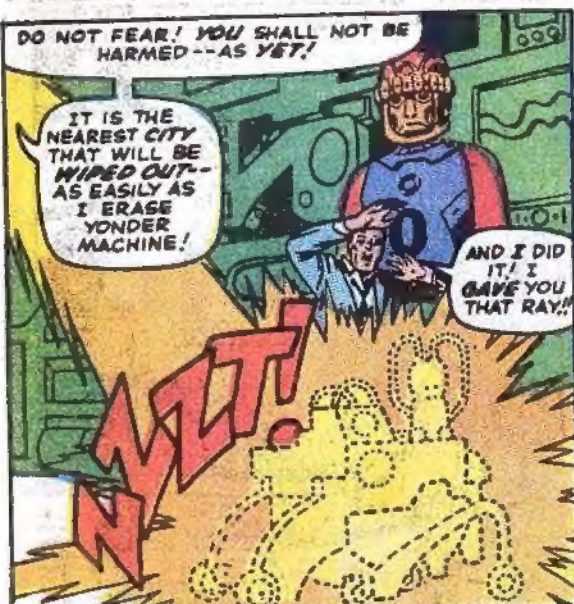
WHILE I HAVE THE POWER, IT IS YOU WHO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE A VAST ARMY OF SENTINELS FOR ME-- AND YOU SHALL DO SO!

NO! IT WOULD MEAN BETRAYING MY FELLOW MEN! YOU AND YOUR SENTINELS WOULD ENSLAVE ALL OF EARTH!

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN MY POWERS? IF SO, BEHOLD THIS SIMPLE DEMONSTRATION!

YOUR DISINTEGRATOR BEAM!! DON'T DO IT-- DON'T!





DO NOT FEAR! YOU SHALL NOT BE HARMED--AS YET!

IT IS THE NEAREST CITY THAT WILL BE WIPED OUT--AS EASILY AS I ERASE YONDER MACHINE!

AND I DID IT! I GAVE YOU THAT RAY!

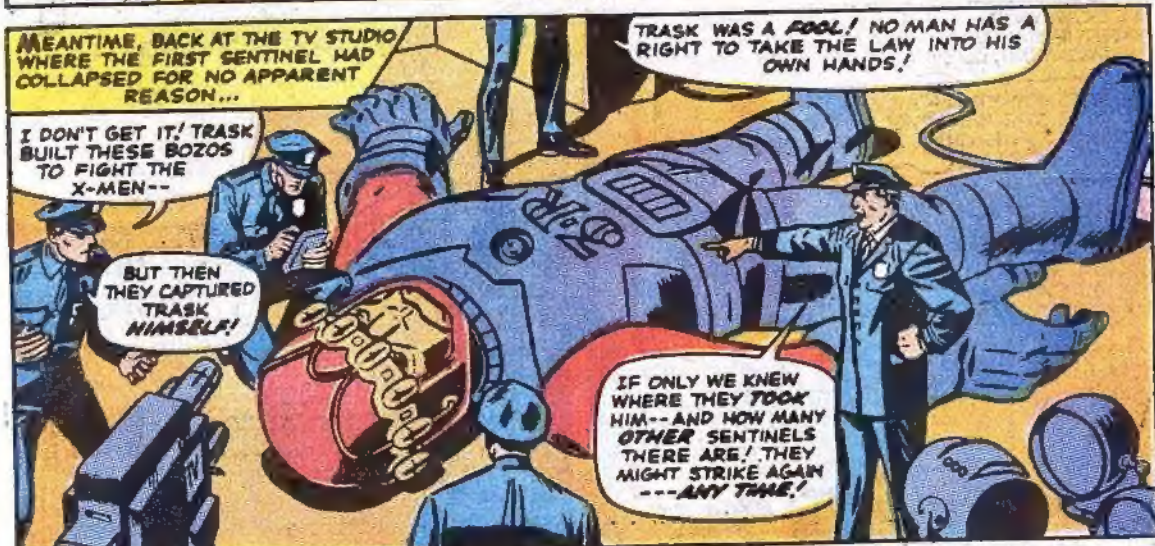


I CANNOT ALLOW AN ENTIRE CITY TO SUFFER SUCH A FATE! I--I'LL CREATE YOUR ARMY OF SENTINELS!

AFTER ALL, WHERE THERE'S LIFE, THERE'S HOPE! WE MAY STILL FIND A WAY TO DESTROY THE MASTER MOLD!

FOR, WITH HIM GONE, THE SENTINELS WOULD BE LEADERLESS--THE THREAT WOULD BE ENDED!

IF ONLY THE X-MEN WERE STILL FREE! IF ONLY I'D LISTENED TO THEM!



MEANTIME, BACK AT THE TV STUDIO WHERE THE FIRST SENTINEL HAD COLLAPSED FOR NO APPARENT REASON...

I DON'T GET IT! TRASK BUILT THESE BOZOS TO FIGHT THE X-MEN--

BUT THEN THEY CAPTURED TRASK HIMSELF!

TRASK WAS A FOOL! NO MAN HAS A RIGHT TO TAKE THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS!

IF ONLY WE KNEW WHERE THEY TOOK HIM--AND HOW MANY OTHER SENTINELS THERE ARE! THEY MIGHT STRIKE AGAIN ---ANY TIME!



PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU, INSPECTOR!

PROFESSOR XAVIER! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS DEBATING WITH TRASK ON TV! YOU CLAIMED MUTANTS WERE NOT DANGEROUS TO MANKIND!

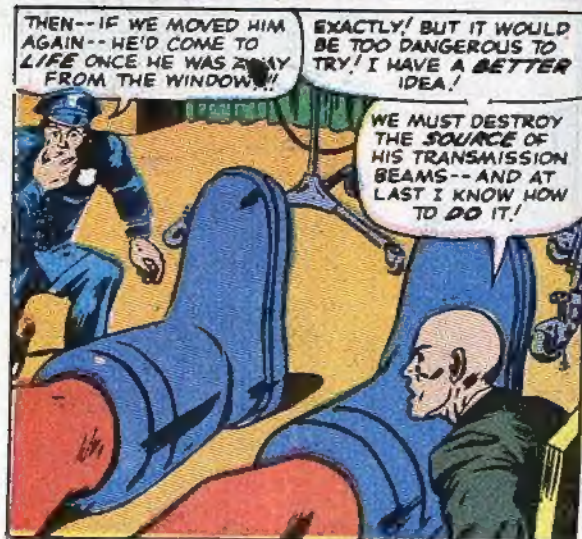
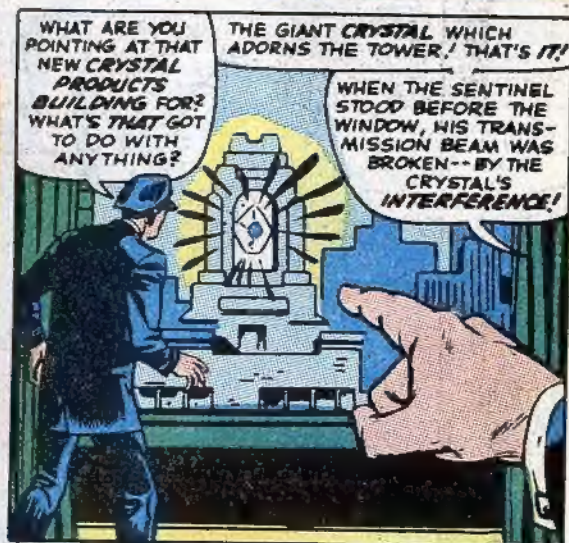
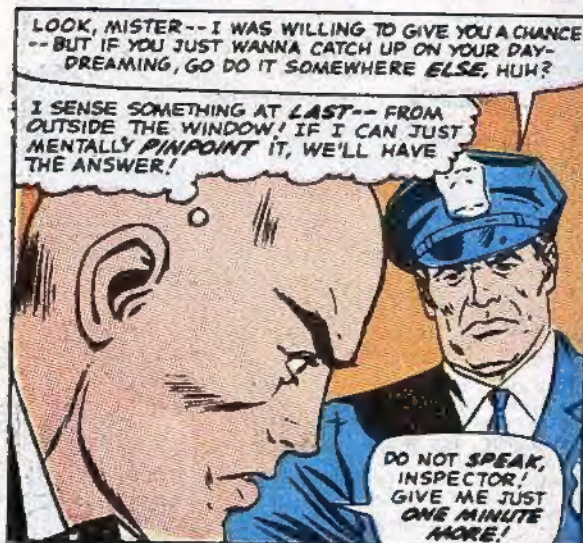
COME ON IN, MISTER! WE'LL TAKE ANY HELP WE CAN GET!



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS SENTINEL HERE? HOW DANGEROUS IS HE?

MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!--UNLESS WE CAN LEARN THE REASON THAT HE COLLAPSED!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE





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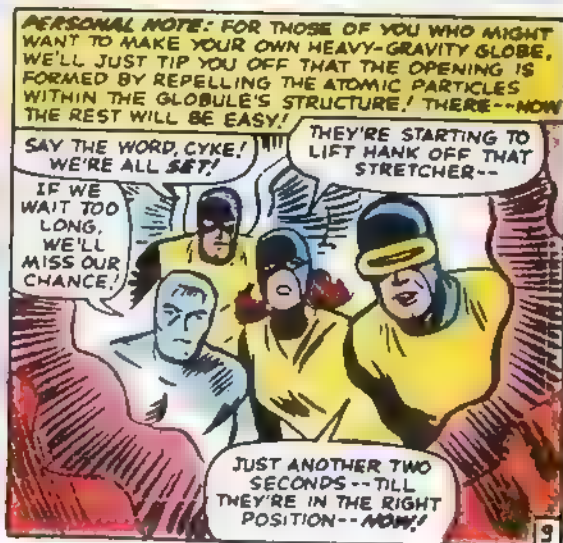
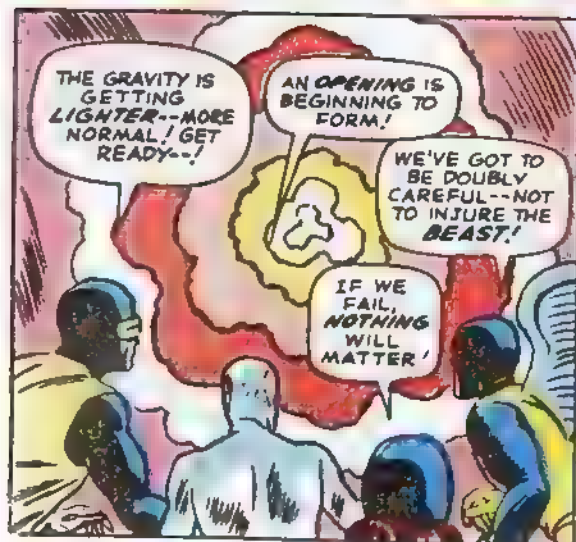
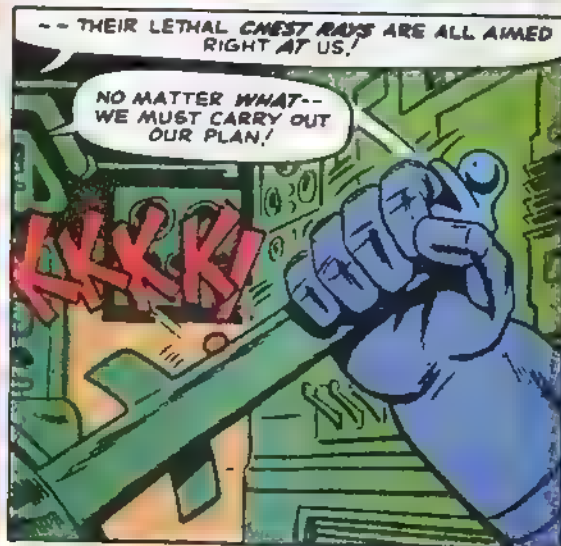
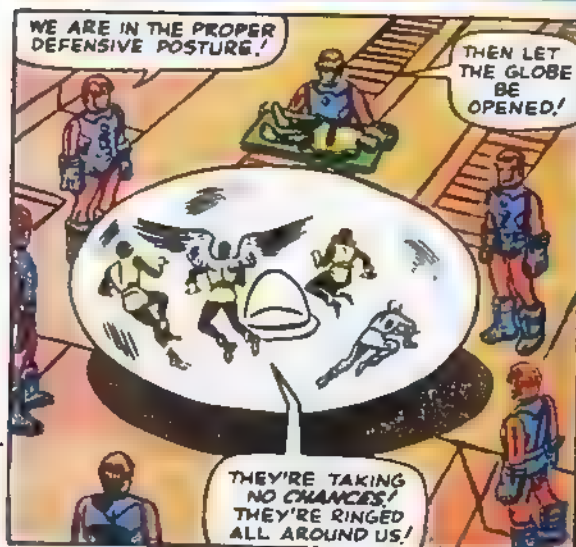
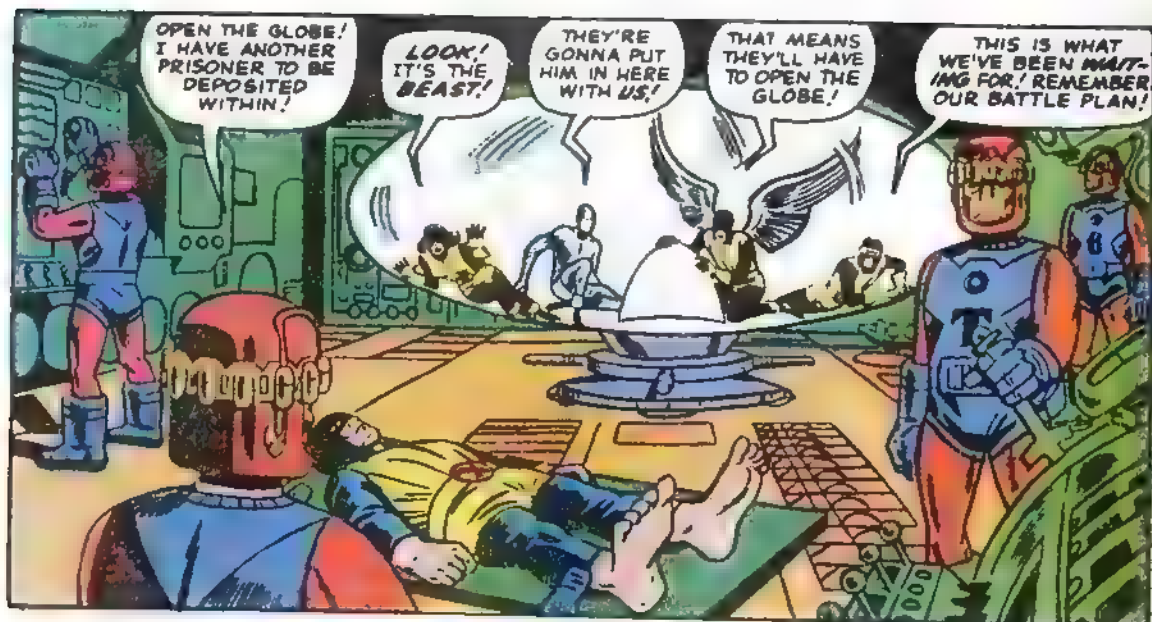
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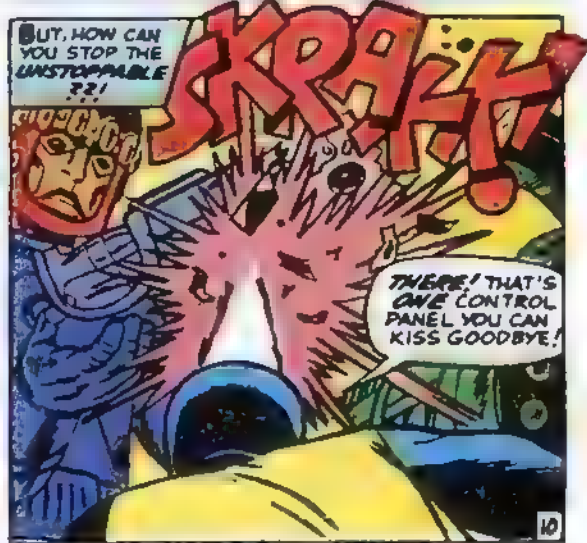
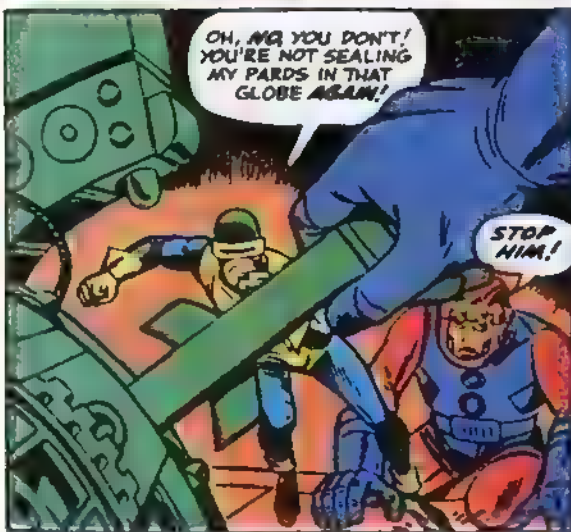
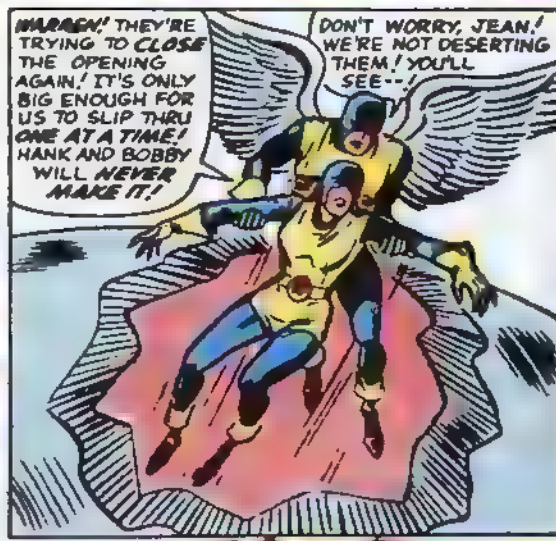
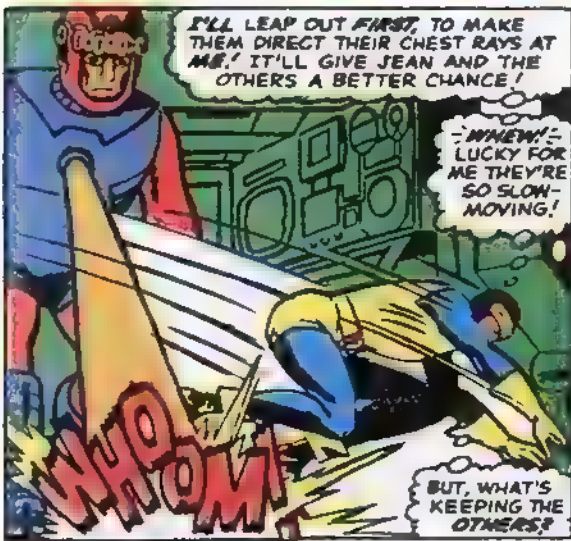
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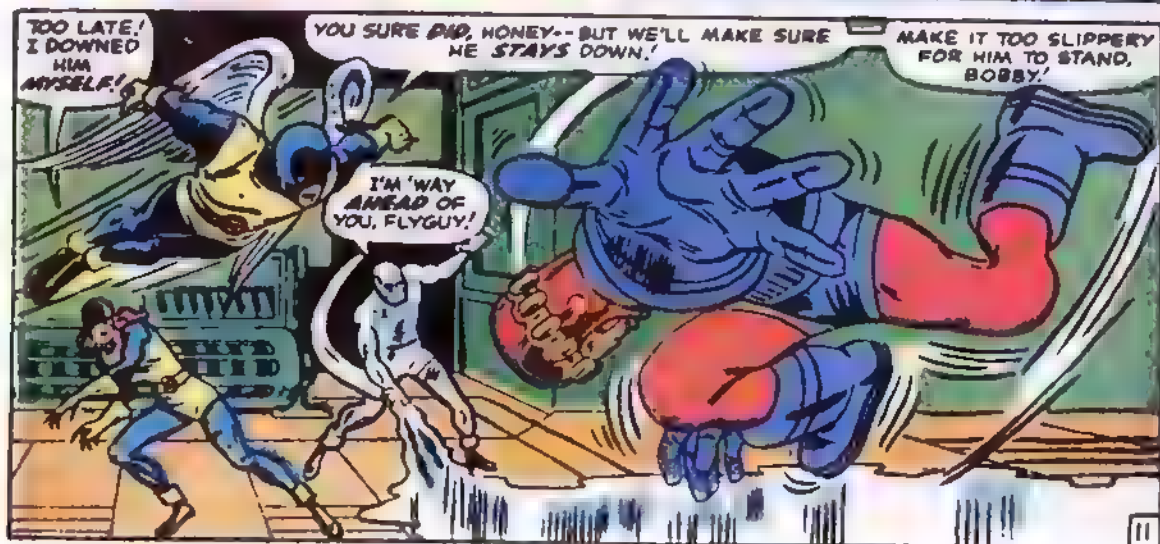
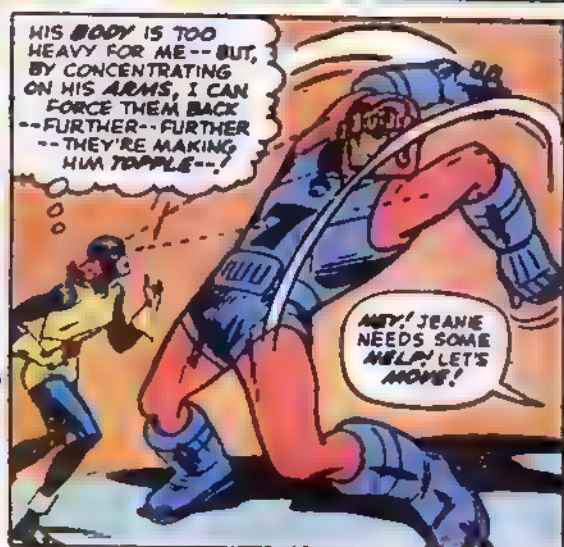
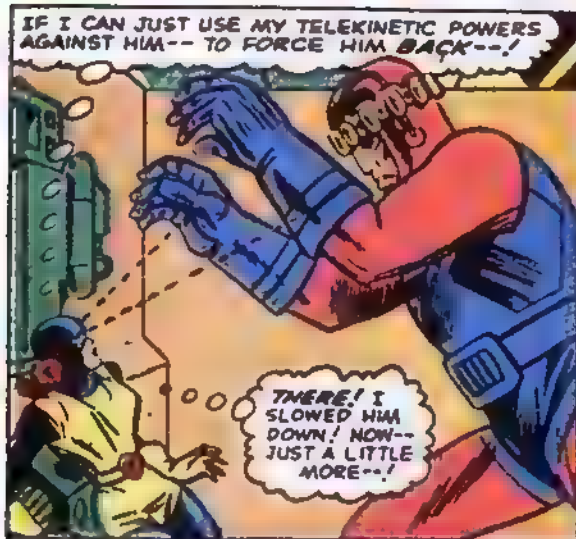
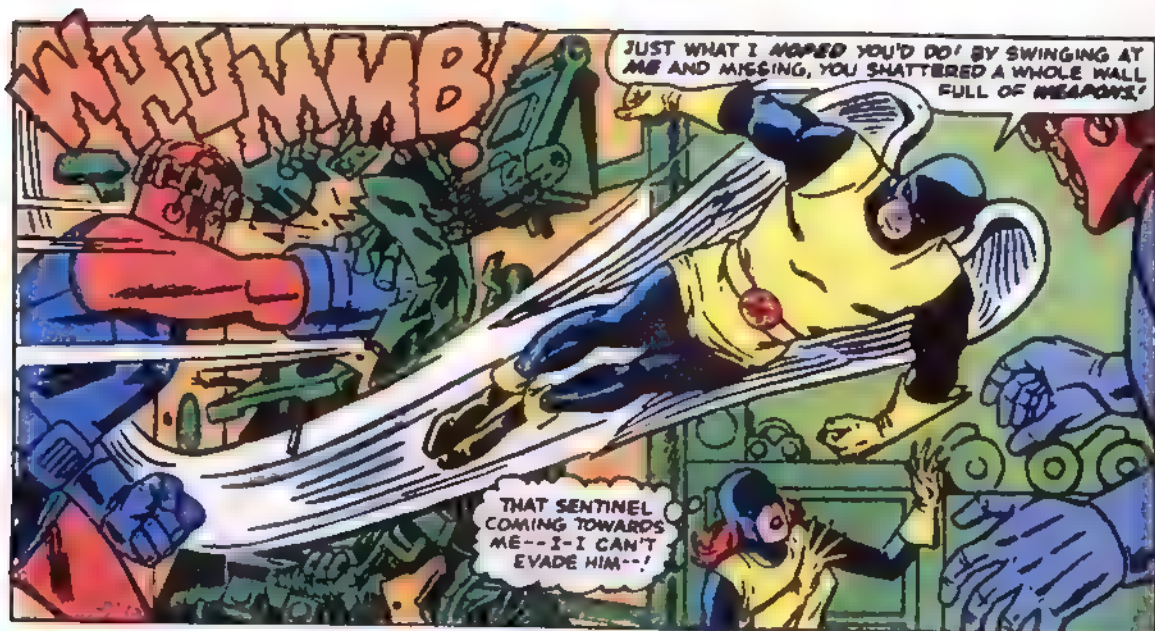




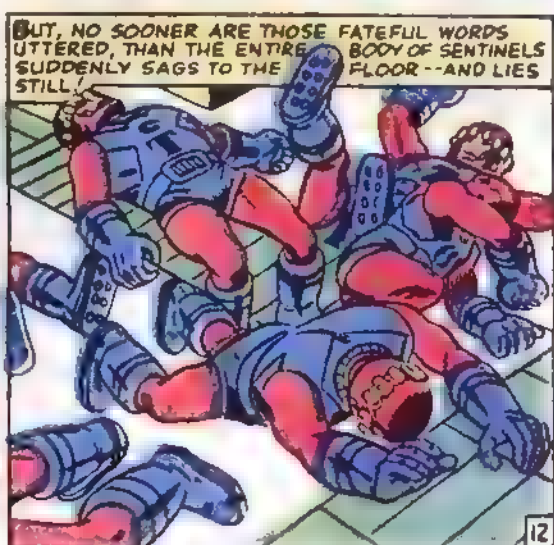
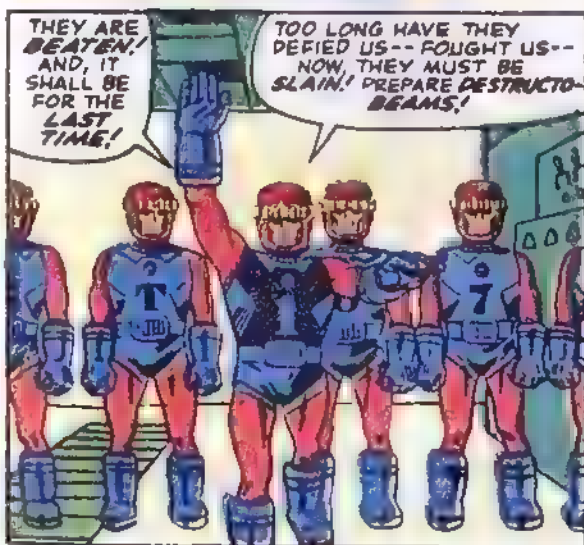
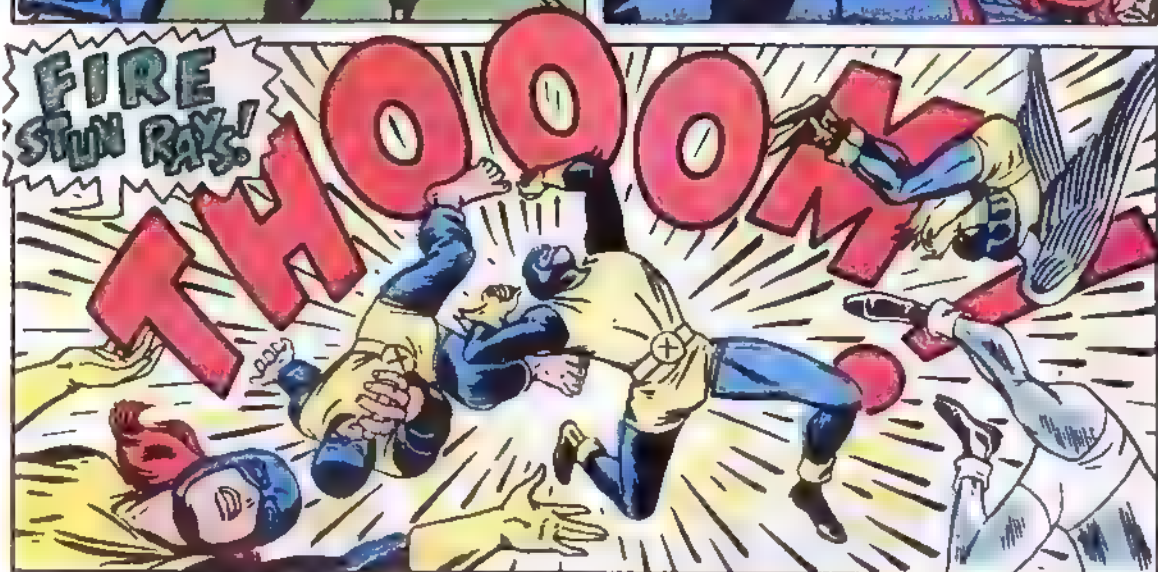
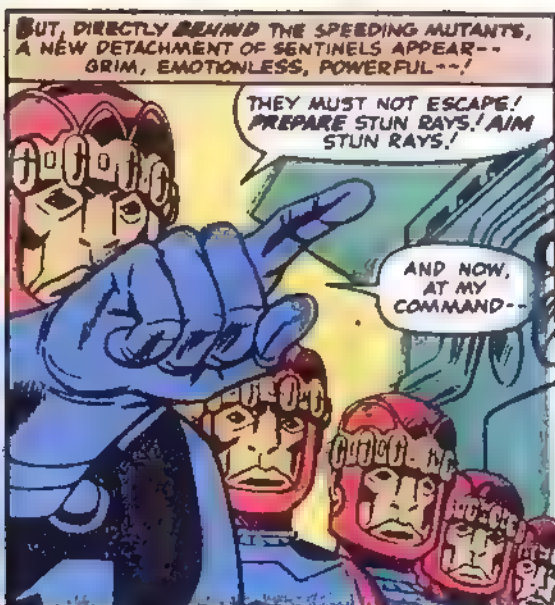






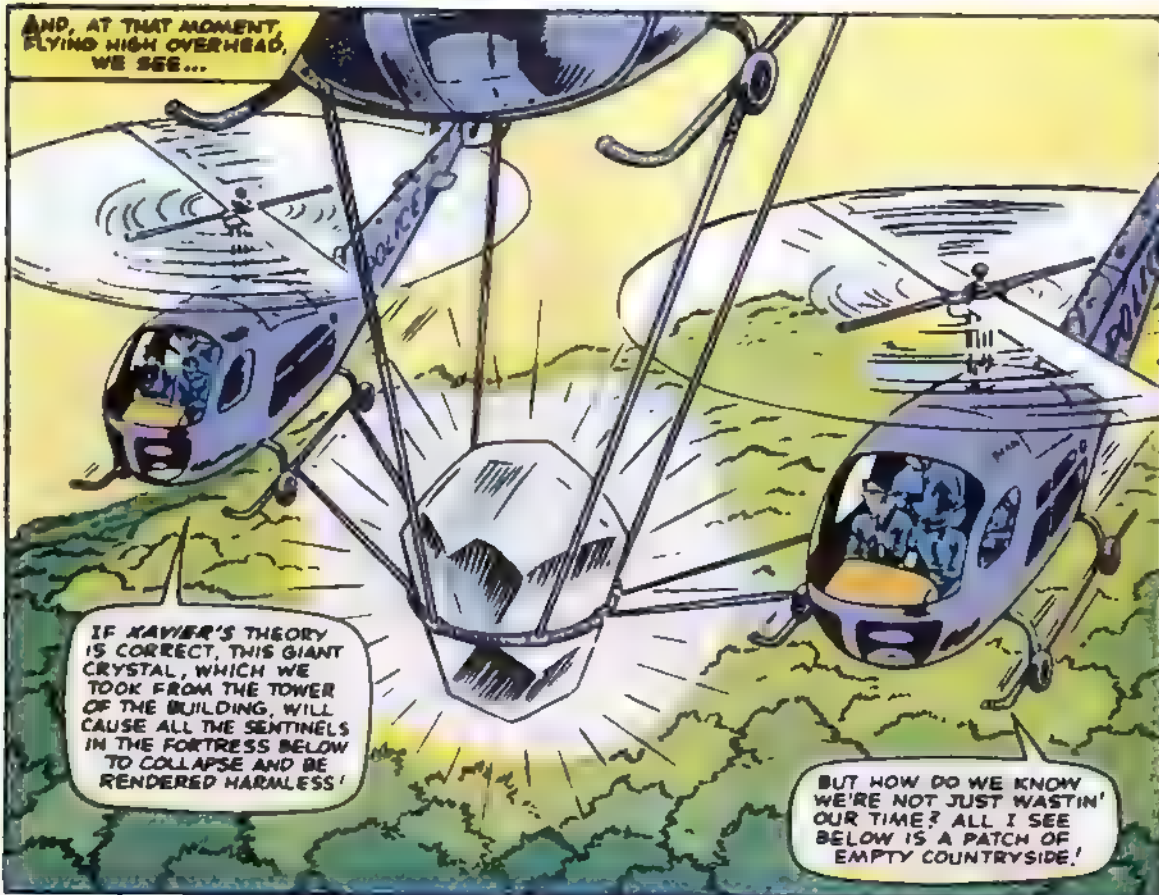








AND, AT THAT MOMENT,  
FLYING HIGH OVERHEAD,  
WE SEE...



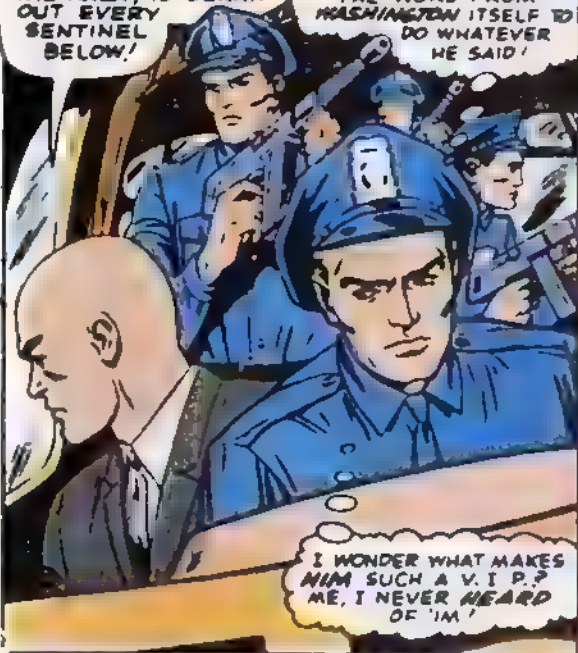
IF XAVIER'S THEORY  
IS CORRECT, THIS GIANT  
CRYSTAL, WHICH WE  
TOOK FROM THE TOWER  
OF THE BUILDING, WILL  
CAUSE ALL THE SENTINELS  
IN THE FORTRESS BELOW  
TO COLLAPSE AND BE  
RENDERED HARMLESS!

BUT HOW DO WE KNOW  
WE'RE NOT JUST WASTIN'  
OUR TIME? ALL I SEE  
BELOW IS A PATCH OF  
EMPTY COUNTRYSIDE!

YOU MAY REST ASSURED, GENTLEMEN, THE  
FORTRESS IS HIDDEN BENEATH THE SITE BELOW!  
CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN YOUR PRESENT FLYING  
SPEED--

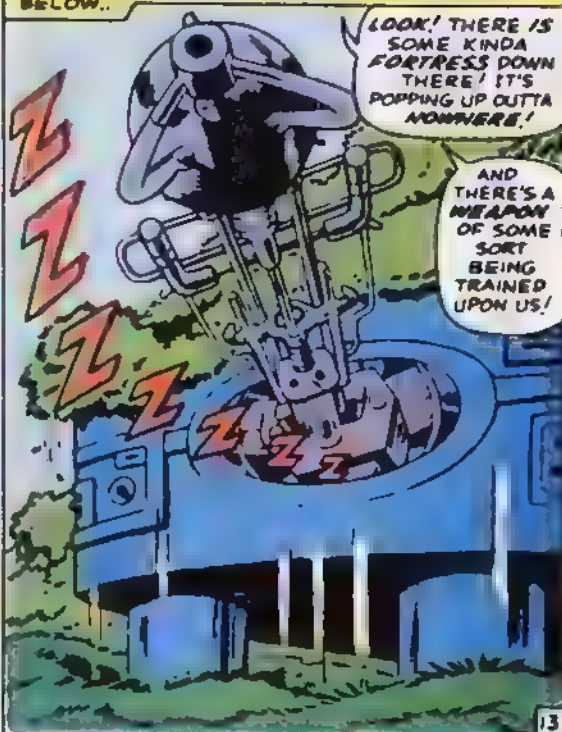
-- IT IS VITAL  
THAT WE MAKE A STEADY,  
COMPLETE SWEEP OF  
THE AREA, TO BLANK  
OUT EVERY  
SENTINEL  
BELOW!

WE ALL THOUGHT THAT  
GUY WAS OFF HIS  
ROCKER, TILL WE GOT  
THE WORD FROM  
WASHINGTON ITSELF TO  
DO WHATEVER  
HE SAID!



I WONDER WHAT MAKES  
HIM SUCH A V.I.P.  
ME, I NEVER HEARD  
OF 'IM!

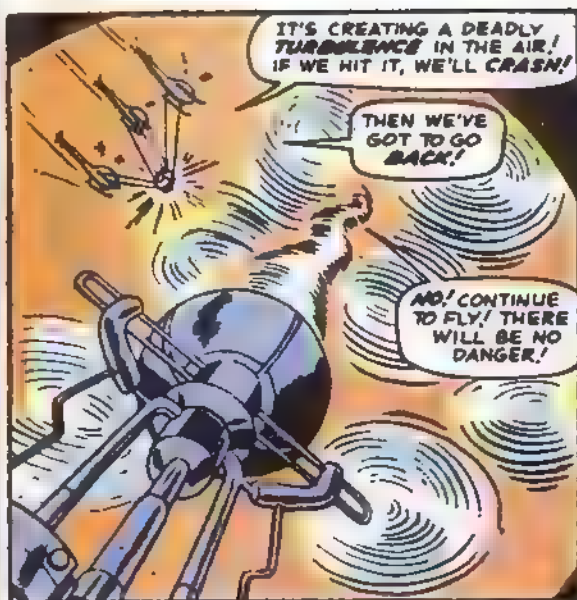
BUT, THE POLICE PILOT'S PUZZLED MUSINGS ARE  
SOON RUDELY INTERRUPTED BY THE UNEXPECTED  
SIGHT WHICH SUDDENLY GREET'S HIS EYES  
BELOW..



LOOK! THERE IS  
SOME KINDA  
FORTRESS DOWN  
THERE! IT'S  
POPPING UP OUTTA  
NOWHERE!

AND THERE'S A  
WEAPON OF SOME  
SORT  
BEING  
TRAINED  
UPON US!

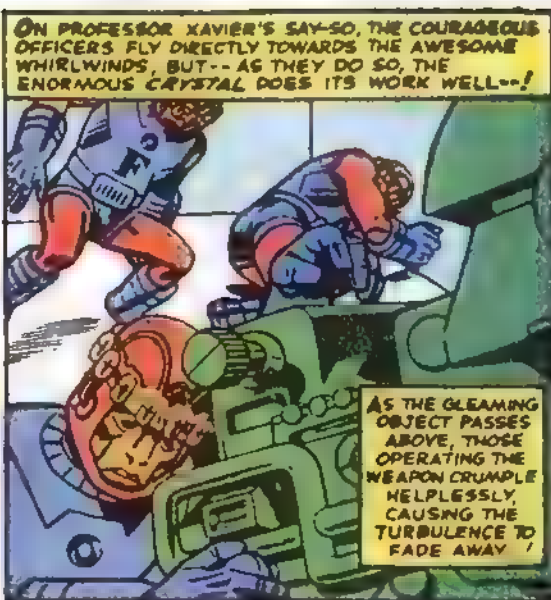




IT'S CREATING A DEADLY  
TURBULENCE IN THE AIR!  
IF WE HIT IT, WE'LL CRASH!

THEN WE'VE  
GOT TO GO  
BACK!

NO! CONTINUE  
TO FLY! THERE  
WILL BE NO  
DANGER!



ON PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SAY-SO, THE COURAGEOUS  
OFFICERS FLY DIRECTLY TOWARDS THE AWESOME  
WHIRLWINDS, BUT-- AS THEY DO SO, THE  
ENORMOUS CRYSTAL DOES ITS WORK WELL--!

AS THE GLEAMING  
OBJECT PASSES  
ABOVE, THOSE  
OPERATING THE  
WEAPON CRUMPLE  
HELPLESSLY,  
CAUSING THE  
TURBULENCE TO  
FADE AWAY!

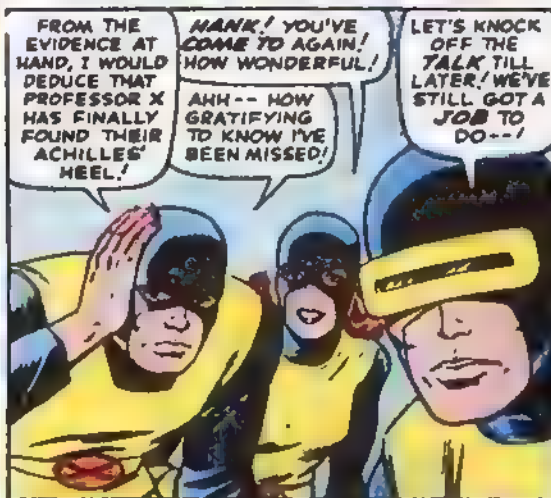


THUS, WHEN THE X-MEN REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS  
ONCE AGAIN, THEY FIND...

LOOK! THE  
SENTINELS!  
THEY'VE  
BEEN  
KNOCKED  
OUT!

I'M NOT COMPLAINING,  
BUT-- HOW DID IT  
HAPPEN?

ONE MINUTE WE  
WERE RACING TO  
THE MASTER  
MOLD-- AND THEN  
--THIS!

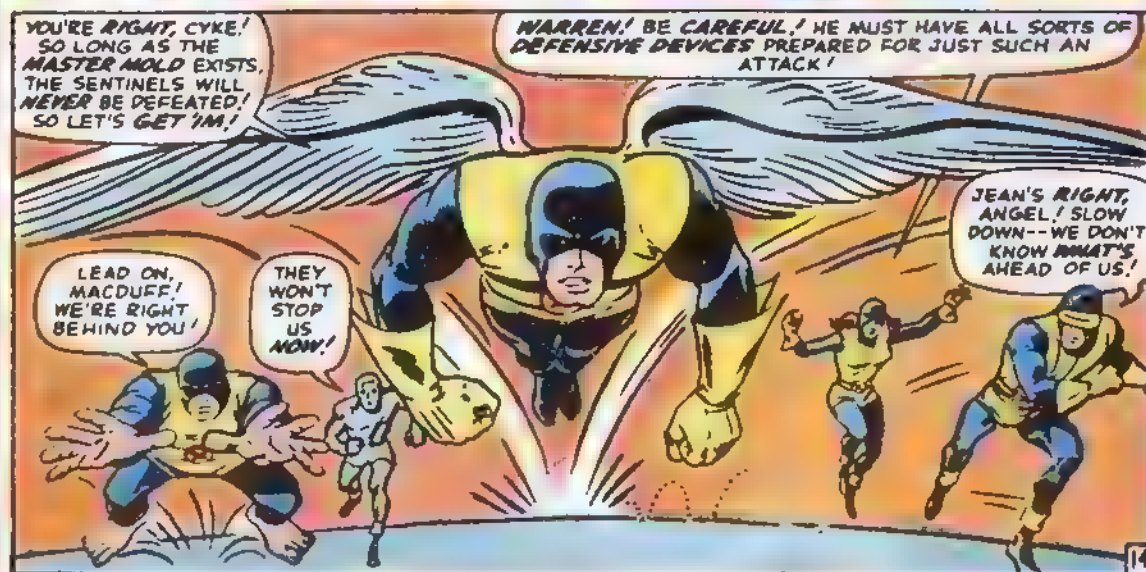


FROM THE  
EVIDENCE AT  
HAND, I WOULD  
DEDUCE THAT  
PROFESSOR X  
HAS FINALLY  
FOUND THEIR  
ACHILLES'  
HEEL!

HANK! YOU'VE  
COME TO AGAIN!  
HOW WONDERFUL!

AHH-- HOW  
GRATIFYING  
TO KNOW I'VE  
BEEN MISSED!

LET'S KNOCK  
OFF THE  
TALK TILL  
LATER, WE'VE  
STILL GOT A  
JOB TO  
DO--!



YOU'RE RIGHT, CYKE!  
SO LONG AS THE  
MASTER MOLD EXISTS,  
THE SENTINELS WILL  
NEVER BE DEFEATED!  
SO LET'S GET 'IM!

WARREN! BE CAREFUL! WE MUST HAVE ALL SORTS OF  
DEFENSIVE DEVICES PREPARED FOR JUST SUCH AN  
ATTACK!

LEAD ON,  
MACDUFF!  
WE'RE RIGHT  
BEHIND YOU!

THEY  
WON'T  
STOP  
US  
NOW!

JEAN'S RIGHT,  
ANGEL! SLOW  
DOWN-- WE DON'T  
KNOW WHAT'S  
AHEAD OF US!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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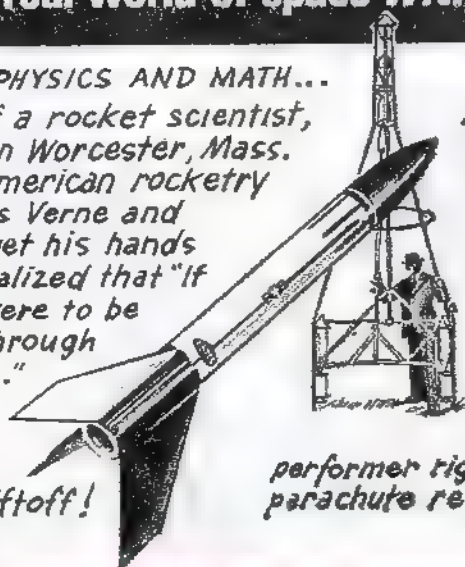




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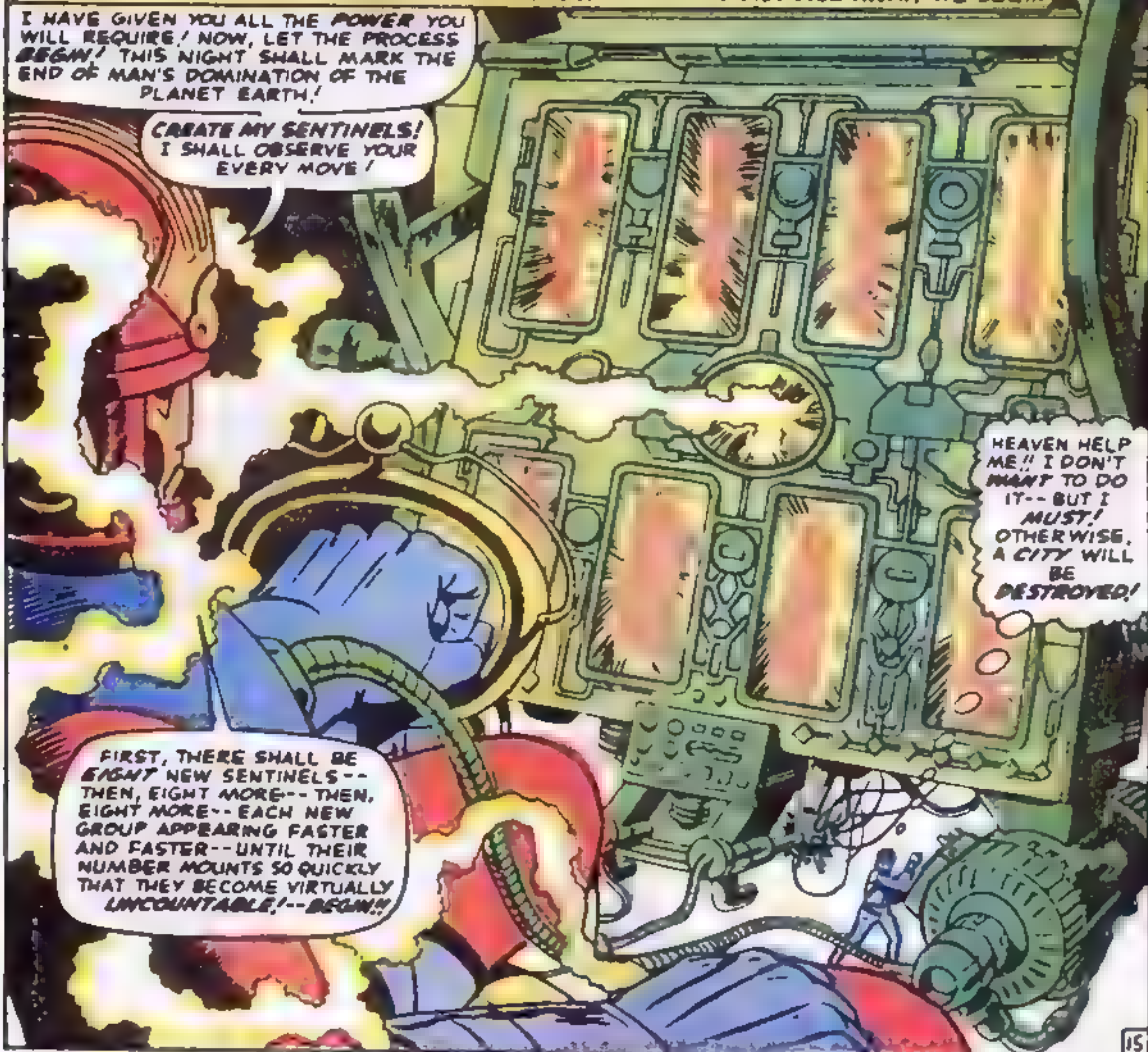
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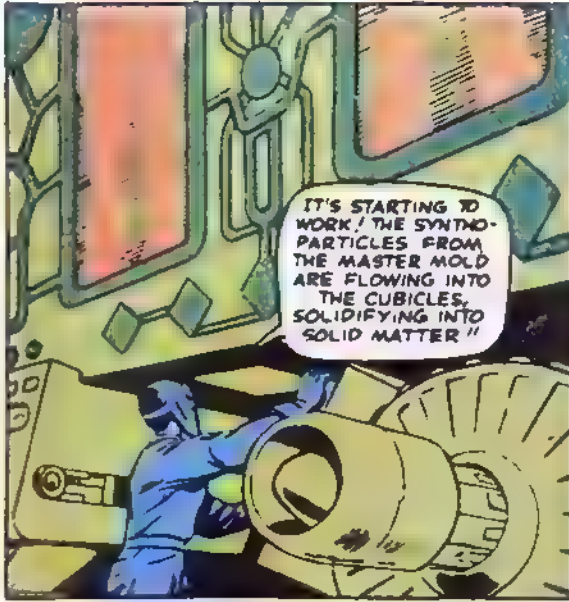
THEN, AS IF TO ADD EMPHASIS TO THE X-MEN'S WORDS, THE LIGHTS SUDDENLY FLICKER OUT, PLUNGING THE ENTIRE AREA INTO DARKNESS...



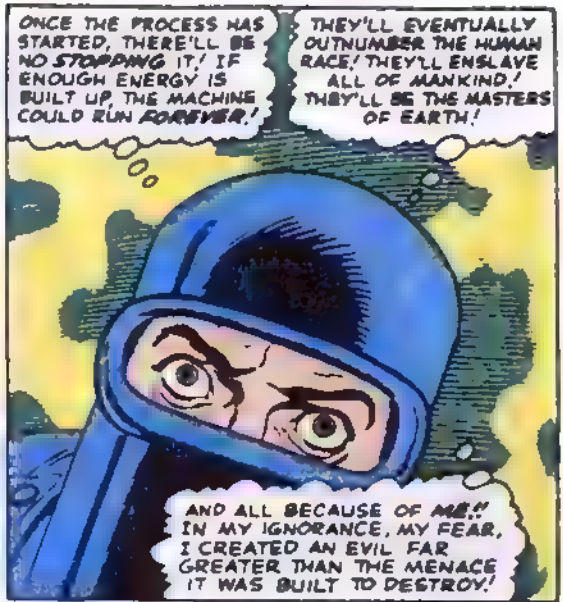
AND, THE BOOK-WORMISH BEAST IS RIGHT! FOR, JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, WE SEE...







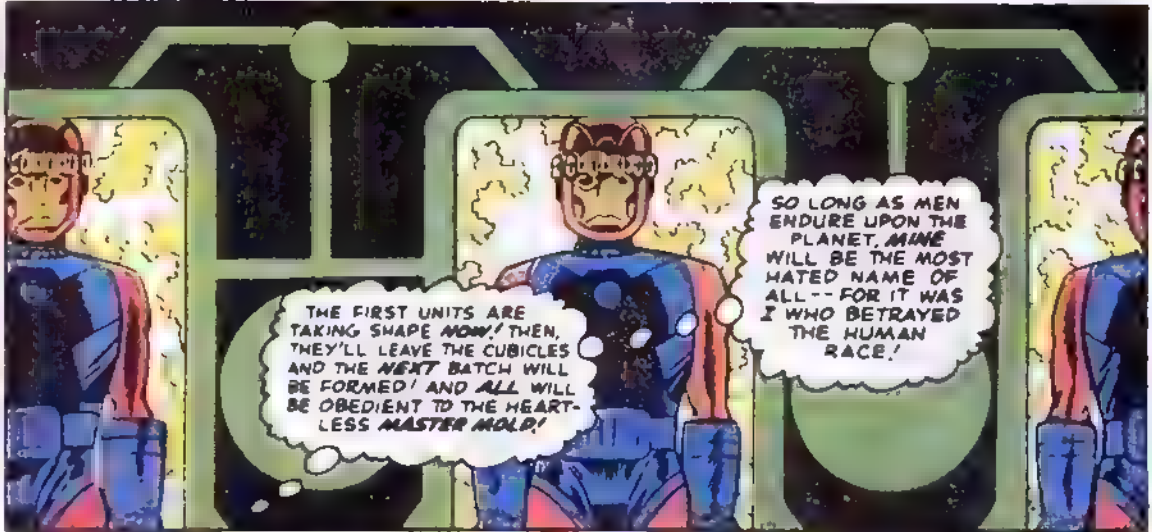
IT'S STARTING TO WORK! THE SYNTHO-PARTICLES FROM THE MASTER MOLD ARE FLOWING INTO THE CUBICLES, SOLIDIFYING INTO SOLID MATTER!



ONCE THE PROCESS HAS STARTED, THERE'LL BE NO STOPPING IT! IF ENOUGH ENERGY IS BUILT UP, THE MACHINE COULD RUN FOREVER!

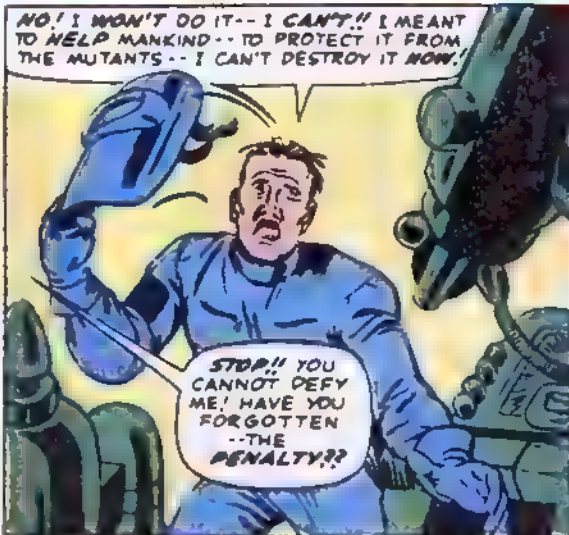
THEY'LL EVENTUALLY OUTNUMBER THE HUMAN RACE! THEY'LL ENSLAVE ALL OF MANKIND! THEY'LL BE THE MASTERS OF EARTH!

AND ALL BECAUSE OF ME!! IN MY IGNORANCE, MY FEAR, I CREATED AN EVIL FAR GREATER THAN THE MENACE IT WAS BUILT TO DESTROY!



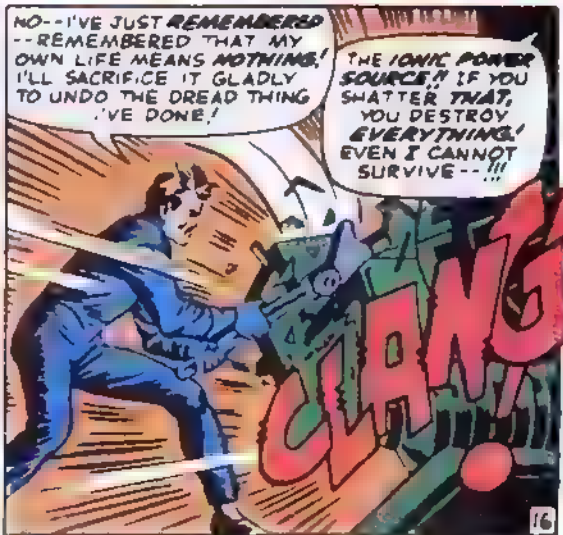
THE FIRST UNITS ARE TAKING SHAPE NOW! THEN, THEY'LL LEAVE THE CUBICLES AND THE NEXT BATCH WILL BE FORMED! AND ALL WILL BE OBEDIENT TO THE HEARTLESS MASTER MOLD!

SO LONG AS MEN ENDURE UPON THE PLANET, MINE WILL BE THE MOST HATED NAME OF ALL-- FOR IT WAS I WHO BETRAYED THE HUMAN RACE!



NO! I WON'T DO IT-- I CAN'T!! I MEANT TO HELP MANKIND-- TO PROTECT IT FROM THE MUTANTS-- I CAN'T DESTROY IT NOW!

STOP!! YOU CANNOT DEFEY ME! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN --THE PENALTY??

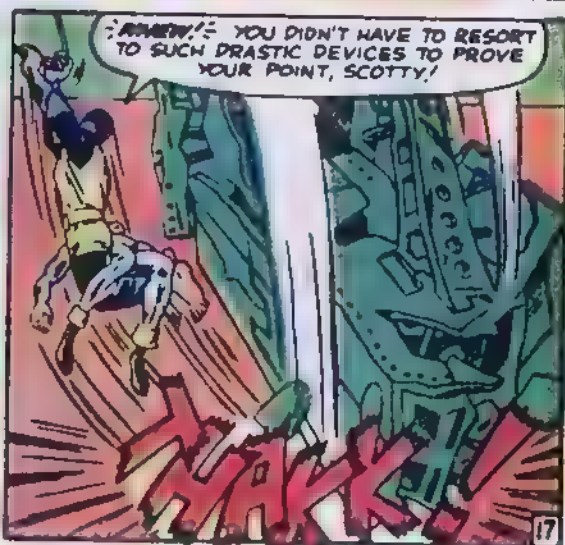
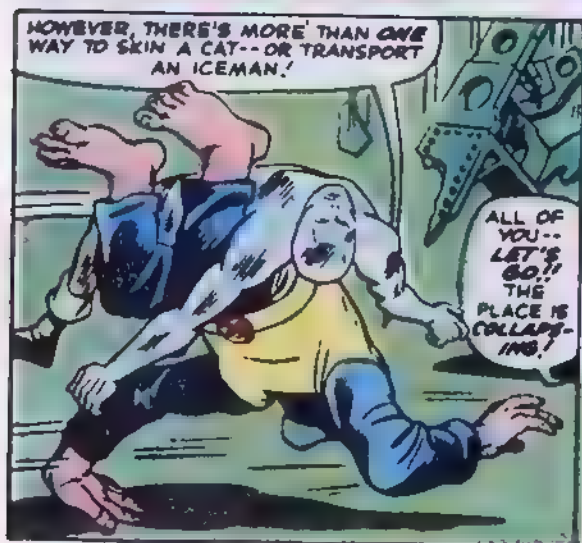
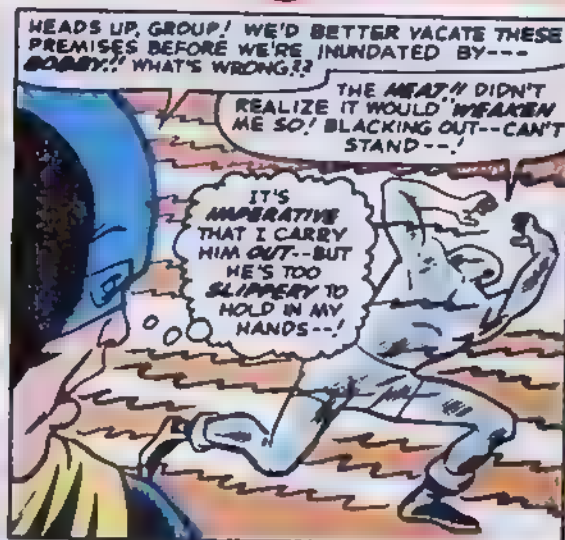
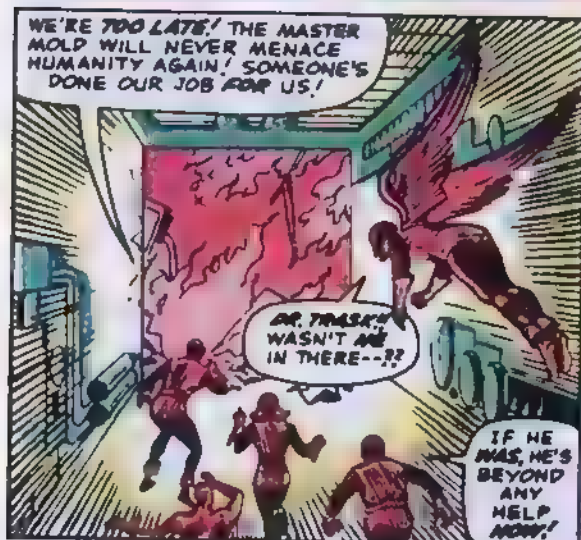


NO--I'VE JUST REMEMBERED --REMEMBERED THAT MY OWN LIFE MEANS NOTHING! I'LL SACRIFICE IT GLADLY TO UNDO THE DREAD THING I'VE DONE!

THE IONIC POWER SOURCE!! IF YOU SHATTER THAT, YOU DESTROY EVERYTHING! EVEN I CANNOT SURVIVE--!!!

CLANG!





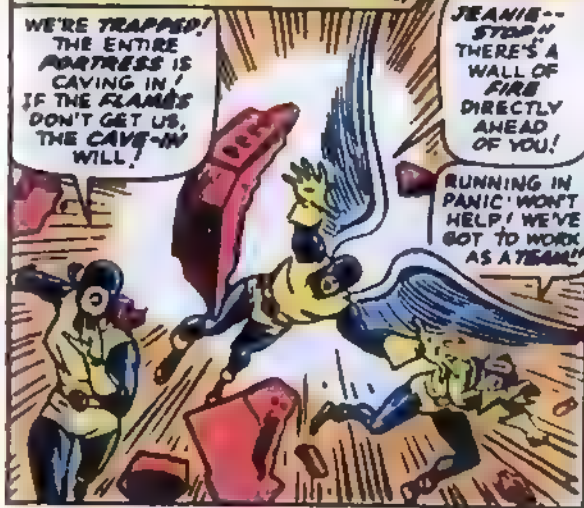


BUT THEN, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO HAPPEN AT ONCE! EACH EXPLOSION CAUSES A BIGGER EXPLOSION-- EACH FIRE STARTS A BIGGER FIRE--AS THE DESPERATE X-MEN SUDDENLY REALIZE THEY'RE SURROUNDED BY IMPENDING DOOM!!

WE'RE TRAPPED! THE ENTIRE FORTRESS IS CAVING IN! IF THE FLAMES DON'T GET US, THE CAVE-IN WILL!

JEANIE-- STOP! THERE'S A WALL OF FIRE DIRECTLY AHEAD OF YOU!

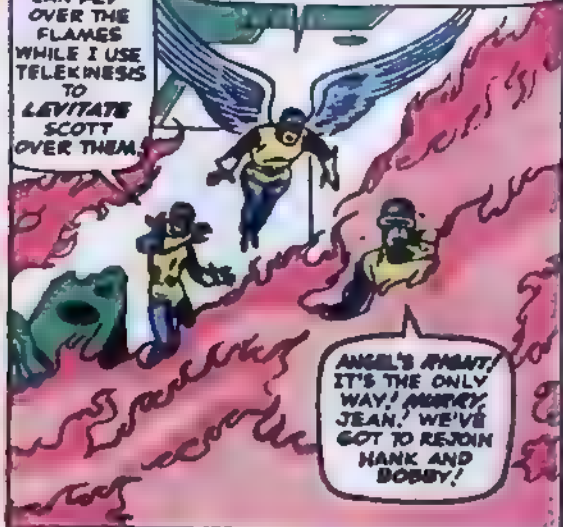
RUNNING IN PANIC WON'T HELP! WE'VE GOT TO WORK AS A TEAM!



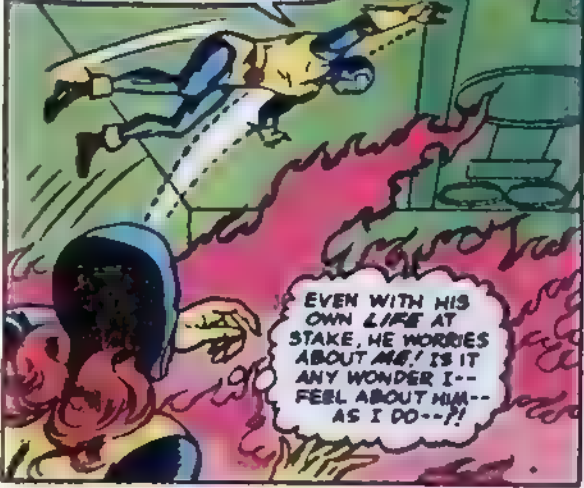
CYCLOPS IS RIGHT! ANGEL, YOU CAN FLY OVER THE FLAMES WHILE I USE TELEKINESIS TO LEVITATE SCOTT OVER THEM.

NO! THEN WE'LL BE TRAPPED! I'LL WAIT HERE AND CARRY YOU OVER, AS SOON AS CYKE IS CLEAR!

ANGEL'S RIGHT! IT'S THE ONLY WAY! HURRY, JEAN! WE'VE GOT TO REJOIN HANK AND BOBBY!



THAT'S IT! BUT, BE CAREFUL! DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF!

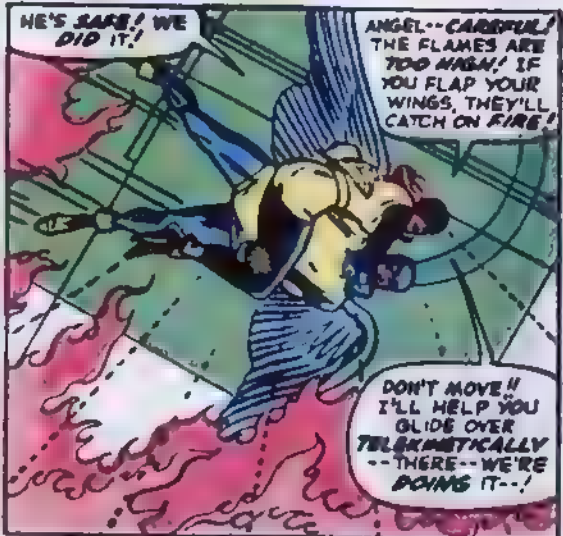


EVEN WITH HIS OWN LIFE AT STAKE, HE WORRIES ABOUT ME! IS IT ANY WONDER I-- FEEL ABOUT HIM-- AS I DO--!!

HE'S SAFE! WE DID IT!

ANGEL-- CAREFUL! THE FLAMES ARE TOO HIGH! IF YOU FLAP YOUR WINGS, THEY'LL CATCH ON FIRE!

DON'T MOVE!! I'LL HELP YOU GLIDE OVER TELEKINETICALLY-- THERE-- WE'RE DOING IT--!



THANKS, GAL! THAT WAS MIGHTY CLOSE! BUT, NOW THAT WE'RE HERE-- WHERE ARE WE??

WE'RE NO SAFER--NO BETTER OFF-- BUT, AT LEAST WE'RE TOGETHER!

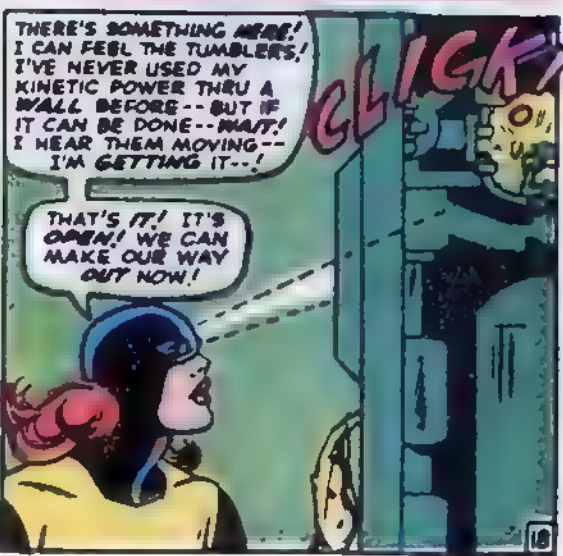
JEAN, SEE IF YOU CAN PROBE THE WALL FOR ANY HIDDEN ESCAPE-LOCK DEVICES!

I'LL TRY, SCOTT!

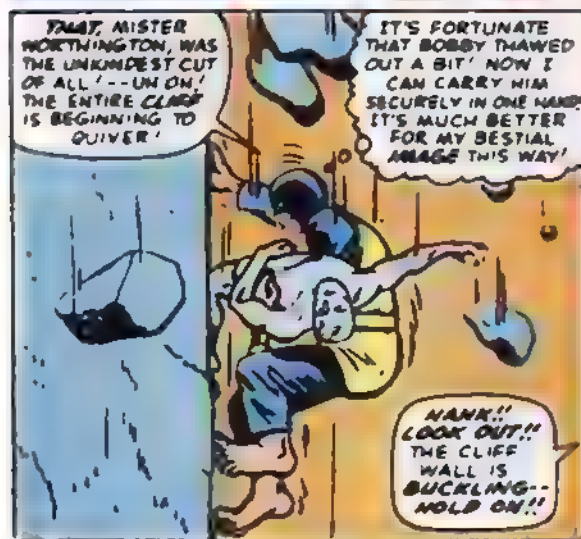
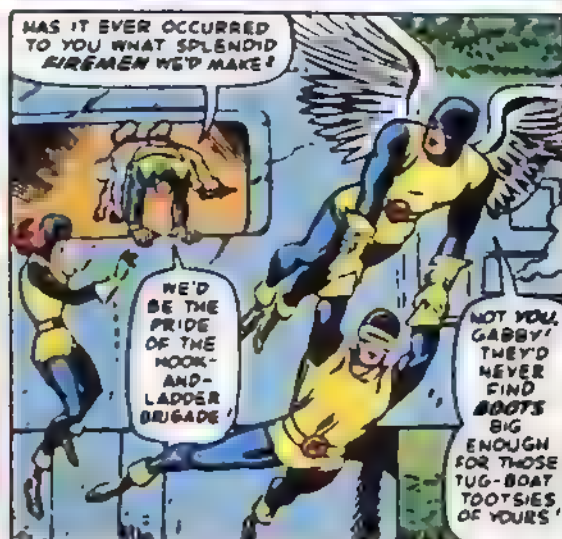
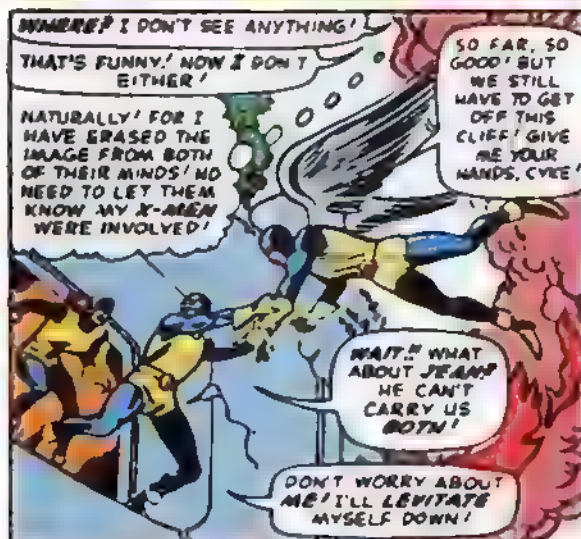
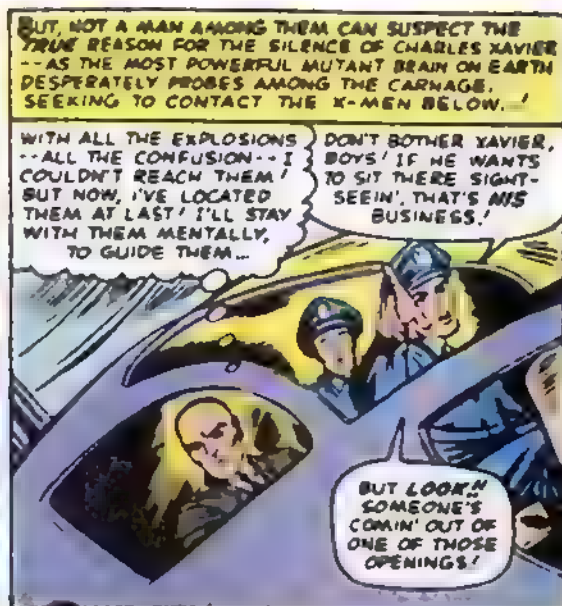
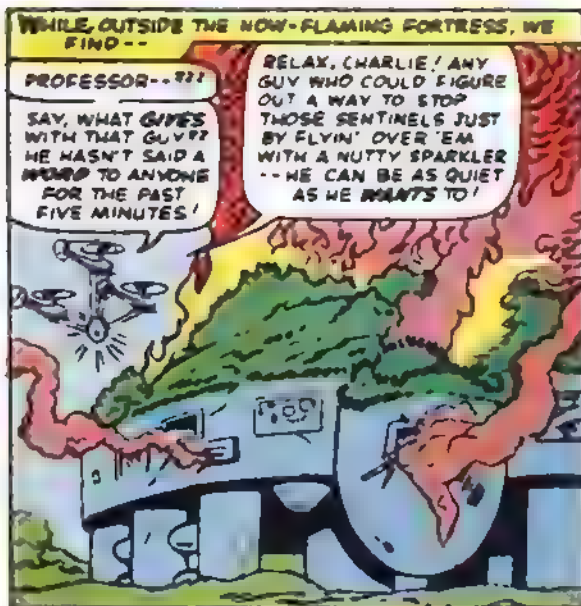


THERE'S SOMETHING HERE! I CAN FEEL THE TUMBLERS! I'VE NEVER USED MY KINETIC POWER THRU A WALL BEFORE-- BUT IF IT CAN BE DONE-- MAY! I HEAR THEM MOVING-- I'M GETTING IT--!

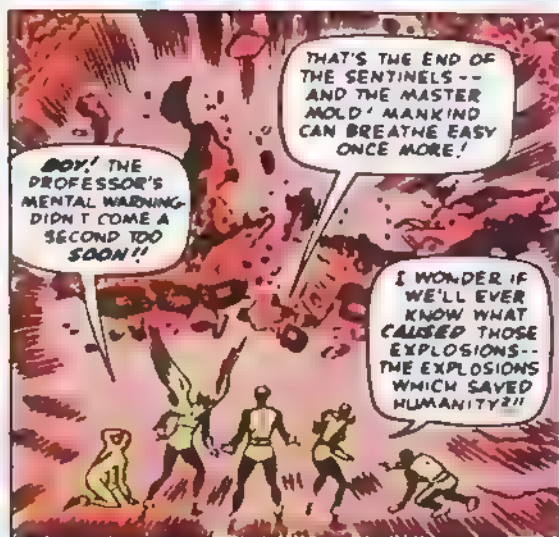
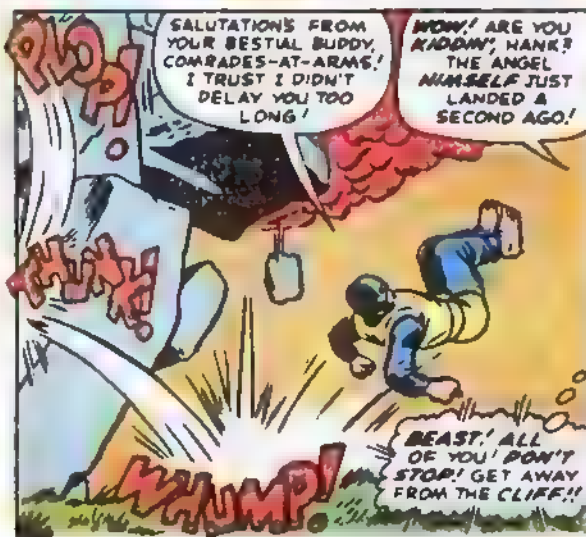
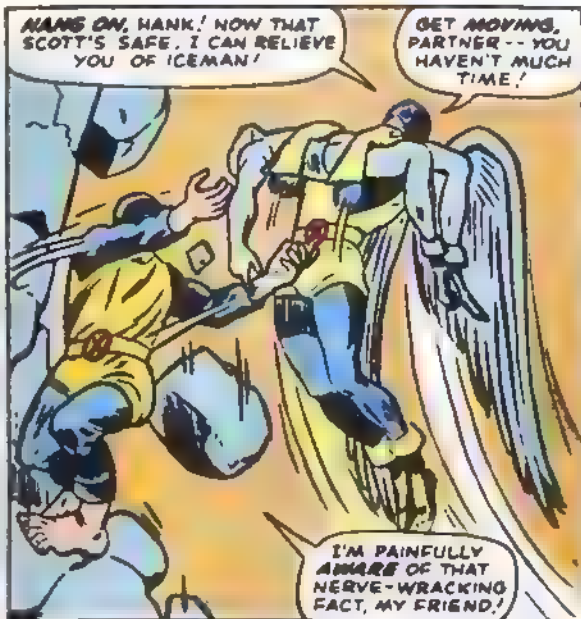
THAT'S IT! IT'S OPEN! WE CAN MAKE OUR WAY OUT NOW!











PERHAPS THE TRUTH WILL ONE DAY BE KNOWN! BUT, UNTIL THAT TIME, IT LIES BURIED BENEATH COUNTLESS TONS OF RUBBLE -- BURIED IN THE BREAST OF DR. BOLIVAR TRASK, WHOSE LAST EARTHLY SACRIFICE BROUGHT THE WORK OF A LIFETIME CRASHING DOWN ABOUT HIM -- WHOSE LAST EARTHLY LESSON PROVED TO BE **BEWARE THE FANATIC!** TOO OFTEN HIS CURE IS DEADLIER BY FAR THAN THE EVIL HE DENOUNCES!



BUT, NO VICTORY IS EVER TRULY COMPLETE. EVEN NOW AS THE WEARY X-MEN PREPARE TO RETURN TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, NONE CAN SUSPECT THE SHADOW OF MENACE THAT AWAITS THEM -- THE MOST UNEXPECTED MENACE OF ALL !!



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**X-MEN!** THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!

# LO! NOW SHALL APPEAR-- **THE MIMIC!**



BOY! ONE THING'S FOR SURE--  
A HAWKEYE I'M NOT!

I HOPE  
OUR  
TRAINING  
SESSION  
DOESN'T  
END TOO  
SOON--

--I'M  
REALLY  
ENJOYING  
THIS ISSUE!

THIS IS KID STUFF,  
CYKE! IF I FLEW  
ANY BETTER, I'D BE  
READY TO MOLT!

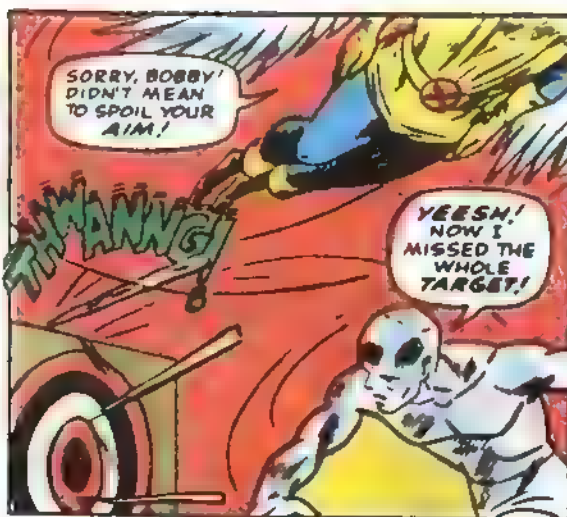
ONE MORE MANEUVER,  
ANGEL! SWOOP SHARPLY  
TO YOUR LEFT WITHOUT  
RUFFLING THE PAGES OF  
JEAN'S BOOK!

WHY IS THE  
BENIGN BEAST  
SO PREJUDICED  
AGAINST? IF I  
WERE A MERE  
ANTHROPOID,  
I'D BE RECEIVING  
A TUMULTUOUS  
OVATION BY  
NOW!

YOU ARE  
WITNESSING A  
TYPICAL DAY'S  
ACTIVITY AT A  
SCHOOL! TYPICAL,  
THAT IS, IF THE  
STUDENTS HAPPEN TO  
BE SUPER-POWERED  
X-MEN--!!!

STORY..... STAN LEE  
PENGK'S..... JAY GAVIN  
INKING..... DICK AYERS  
LETTERING..... ARTIE SIMKE





SORRY, BOBBY! DIDN'T MEAN TO SPOIL YOUR AIM!

THWANG!

YEEH! NOW I MISSED THE WHOLE TARGET!



THAT'S OKAY, WARRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO TOSS A MESS OF ICE FLAKES AT YOU, BITCH!

ICEMAN! NO CLOWNING AROUND TILL THE SESSION'S OVER!



SORRY, CYKE! I THOUGHT WE WERE FINISHED!

UH OH! DON'T TRY ANYTHING, ANGEL, UNLESS YOU WANNA GET TICKLED WITH THIS ICY TOOTH-PICK!

YOU, MASTER ROBERT DRAKE, ESQUIRE, ARE ASKING FOR IT--!



I SAID--NO CLOWNING AROUND!

CYKE'S POWER BEAM!

WHOK!



GOSH, SCOTTY, CANTCHA TAKE A JOKE?

NOT WHEN THE PROF MADE YOUR TRAINING MY RESPONSIBILITY!

HE'S RIGHT, BOBBY!

SORRY, CYKE! WE'LL BOTH COOL IT NOW!

LET'S KNOCK IT OFF!



OKAY, LET'S ALL BUCKLE DOWN AGAIN!

IT'S TIME TO TRY TO BEAT YOUR OWN SPEED RECORD ON THE TRAPDOOR-OBSTACLE COURSE, HANK!

JUST TO EASE THE BOREDOM THIS TIME, I'LL ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE THE MANEUVER ON ONE HAND!

WAIT! WHAT OF THE DANGER?



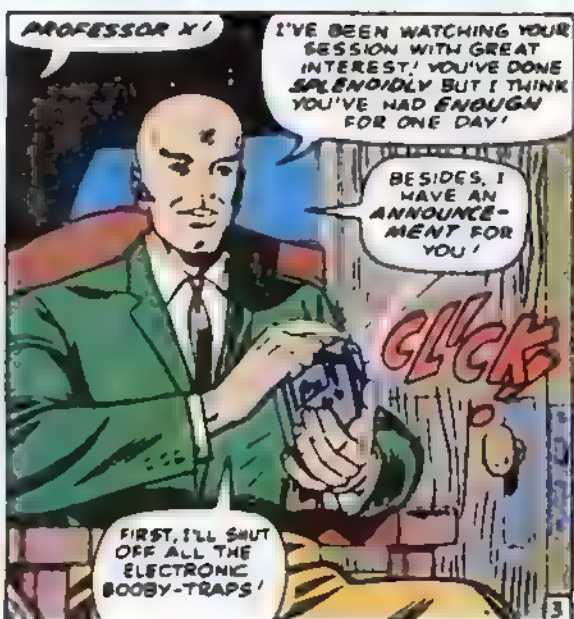
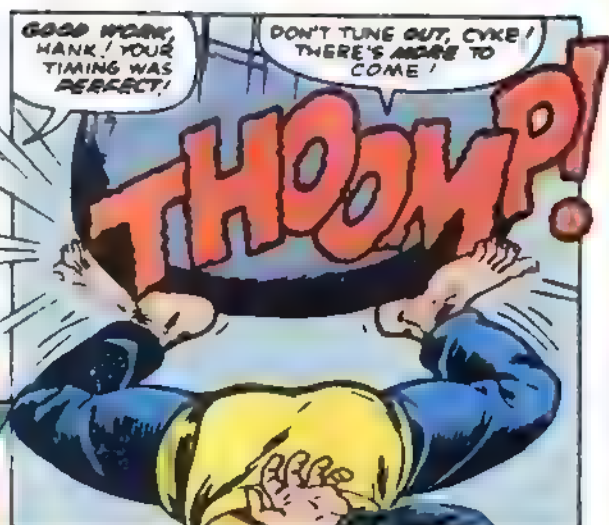
TOO LATE! HE'S OFF!

FEAR NOT, GROUP! THE BEAST SHALL PERSEVERE!

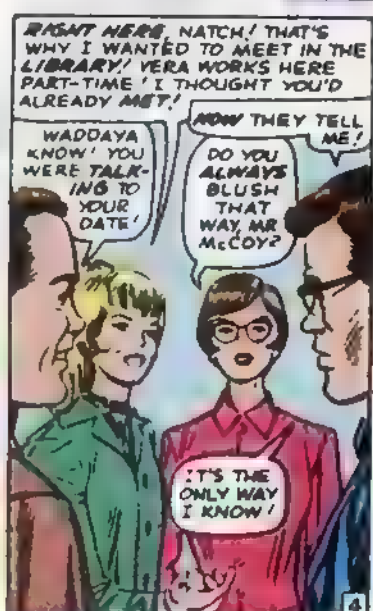
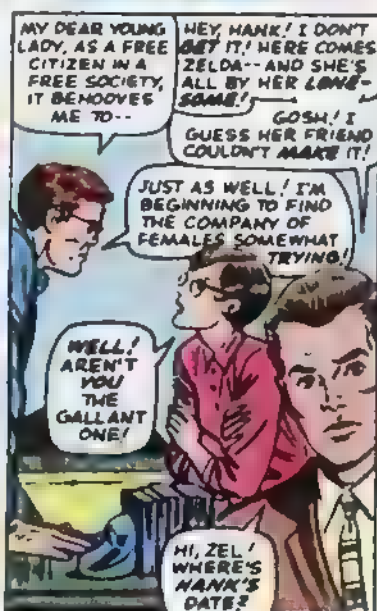
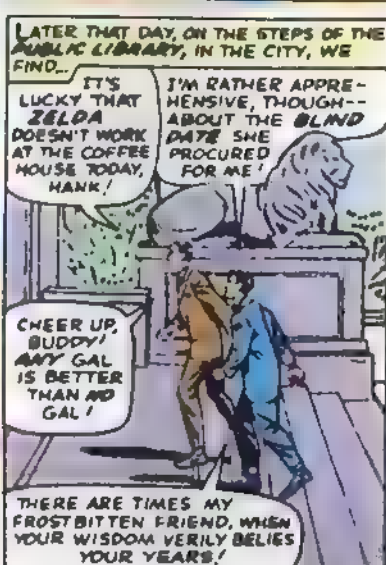
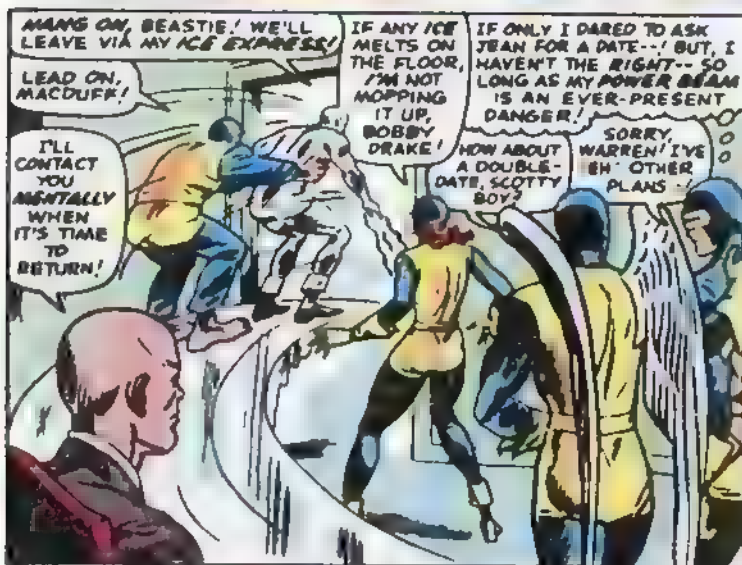
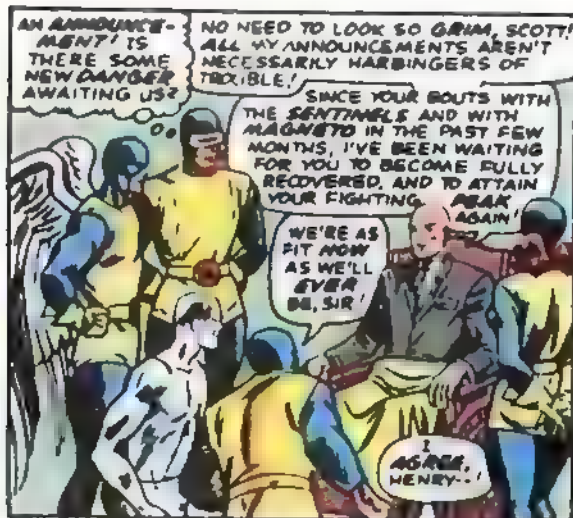
CAREFUL, BOY--!

KLUMP THUMP

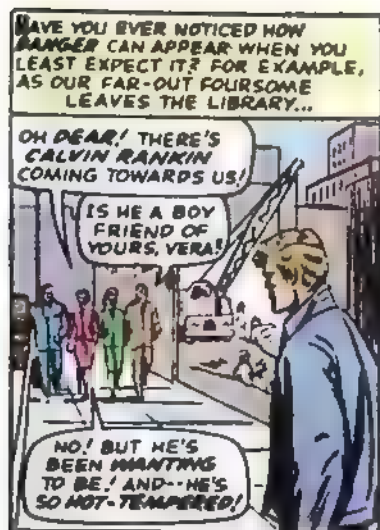










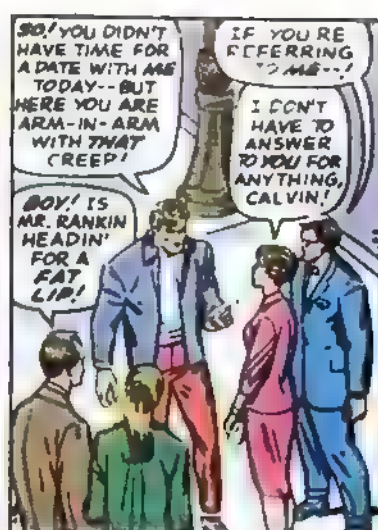


HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW RANGER CAN APPEAR WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT? FOR EXAMPLE, AS OUR FAR-OUT FOURLSOME LEAVES THE LIBRARY...

OH DEAR! THERE'S CALVIN RANKIN COMING TOWARDS US!

IS HE A BOY FRIEND OF YOURS, VERA?

NO! BUT HE'S BEEN WANTING TO BE! AND--HE'S SO HOT-TEMPERED!

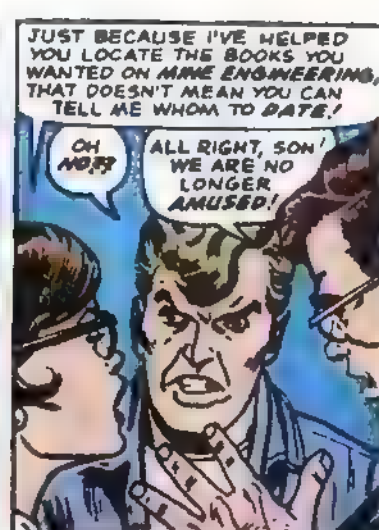


SO! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR A DATE WITH ME TODAY-- BUT HERE YOU ARE ARM-IN-ARM WITH THAT CREEP!

BOY! IS MR. RANKIN HEADIN' FOR A FAT LIP!

IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO ME--!

I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO YOU FOR ANYTHING, CALVIN!



JUST BECAUSE I'VE HELPED YOU LOCATE THE BOOKS YOU WANTED ON *MAINE ENGINEERING*, THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN TELL ME WHOM TO DATE!

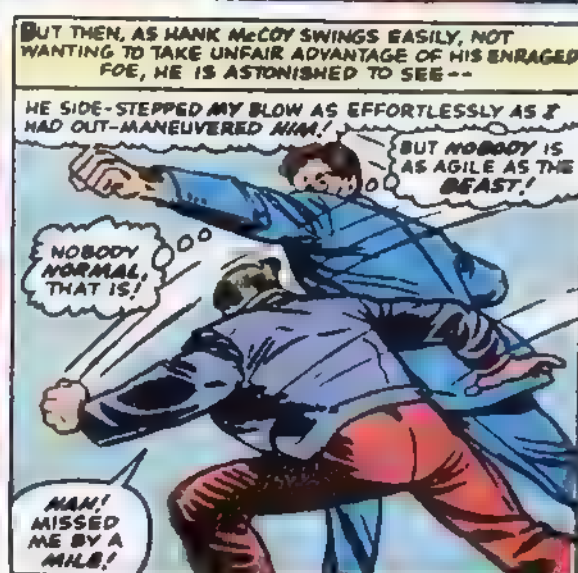
OH NO?? ALL RIGHT, SON! WE ARE NO LONGER AMUSED!



NOBODY ASKED YOU TO BUTT IN! I'LL KNOCK YOU CLEAR BACK TO SQUARESVILLE!

HEY! I NEVER SAW ANYONE DODGE SO FAST BEFORE!

OBVIOUSLY YOU'RE NOT THE OBSERVANT TYPE! AND NOW, IT'S MY TURN AT BAT--!



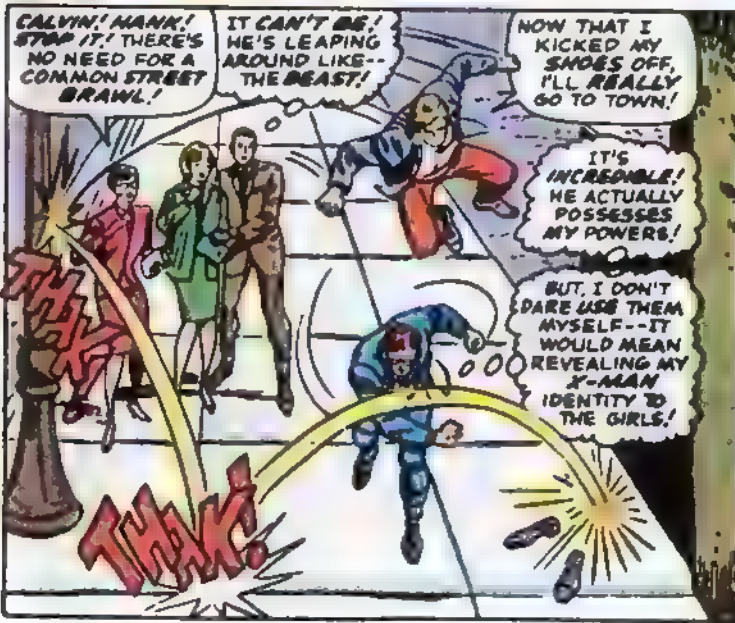
BUT THEN, AS HANK MCCOY SWINGS EASILY, NOT WANTING TO TAKE UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF HIS ENRAGED FOE, HE IS ASTONISHED TO SEE--

HE SIDE-STEPPED HIS BLOW AS EFFORTLESSLY AS I HAD OUT-MANEUVORED HIM!

BUT NOBODY IS AS AGILE AS THE BEAST!

NOBODY NORMAL, THAT IS!

MAN! MISSED ME BY A MILE!



CALVIN! HANK! STOP IT! THERE'S NO NEED FOR A COMMON STREET BRAWL!

IT CAN'T BE! HE'S LEAPING AROUND LIKE-- THE BEAST!

NOW THAT I KICKED MY SHOES OFF, I'LL REALLY GO TO TOWN!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! HE ACTUALLY POSSESSES MY POWERS!

BUT, I DON'T DARE USE THEM MYSELF--IT WOULD MEAN REVEALING MY X-MAN IDENTITY TO THE GIRLS!

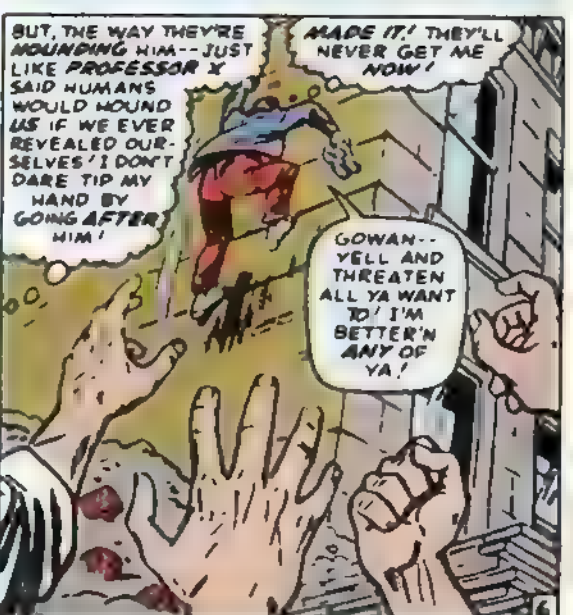
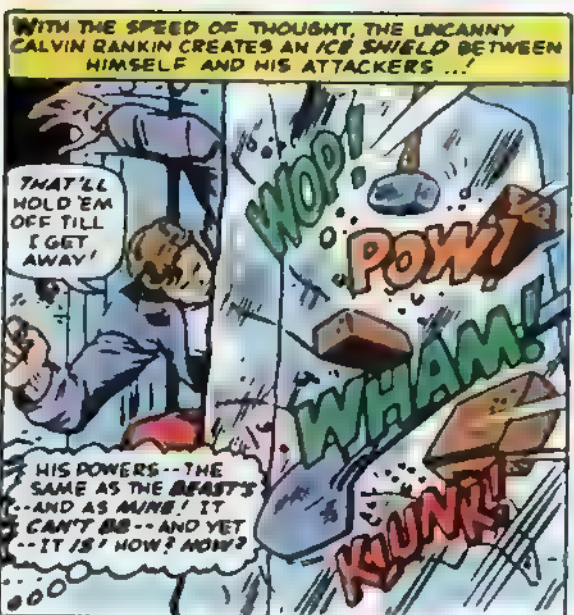
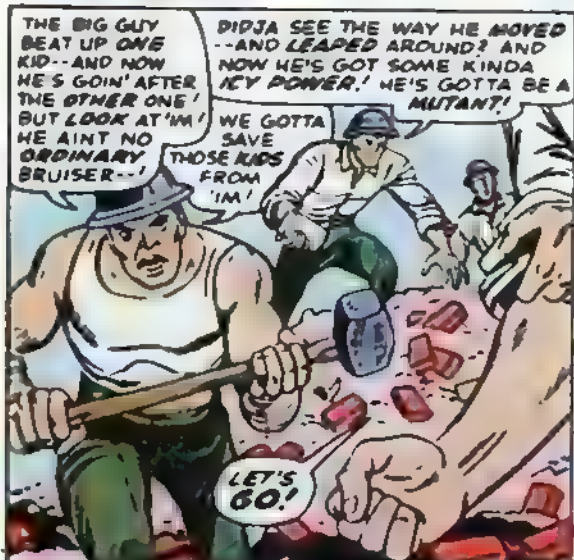
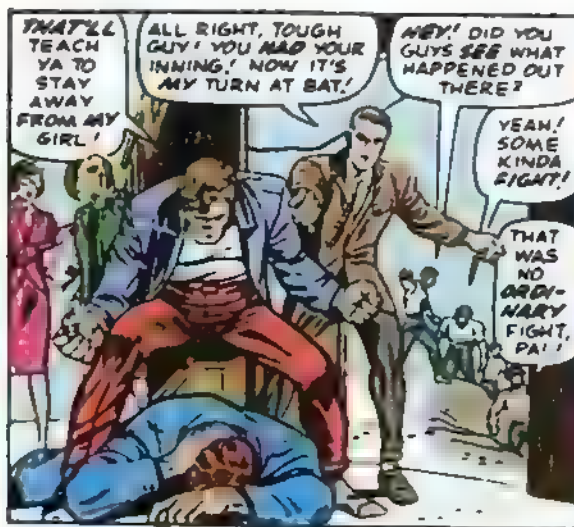


AND THEN, THE CROWNING HUMILIATION--!

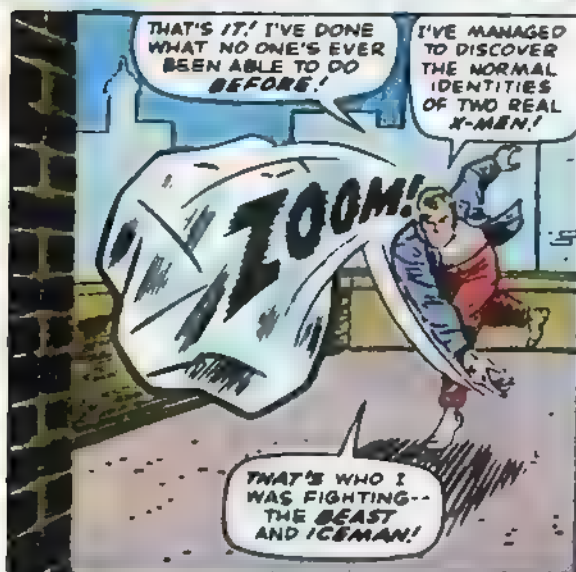
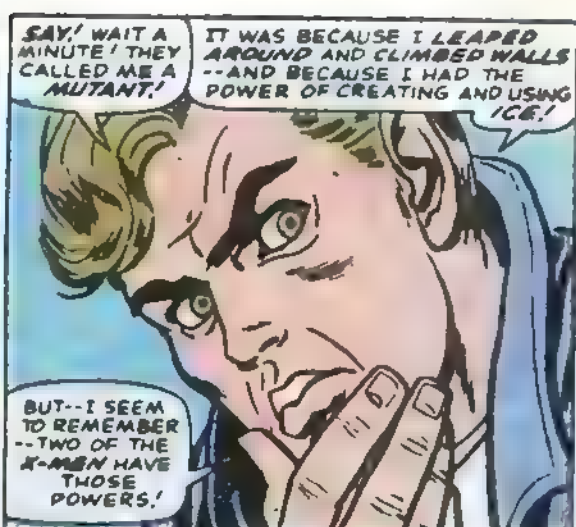
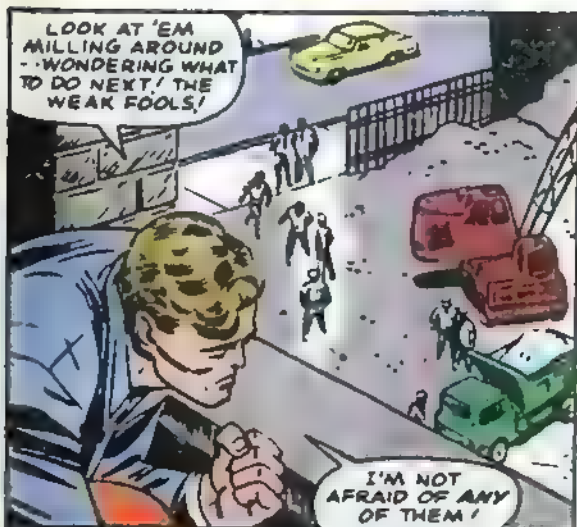
BOOK!

SWEET MORGANS, STUPID!

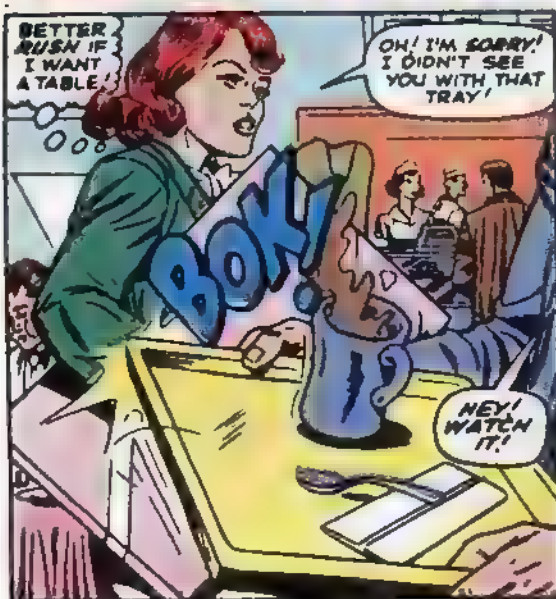
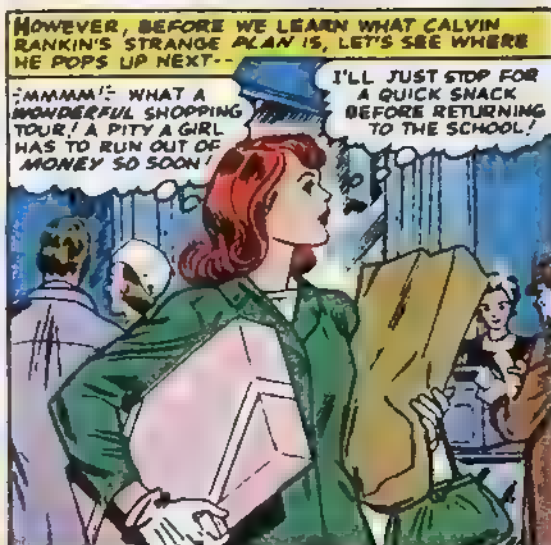
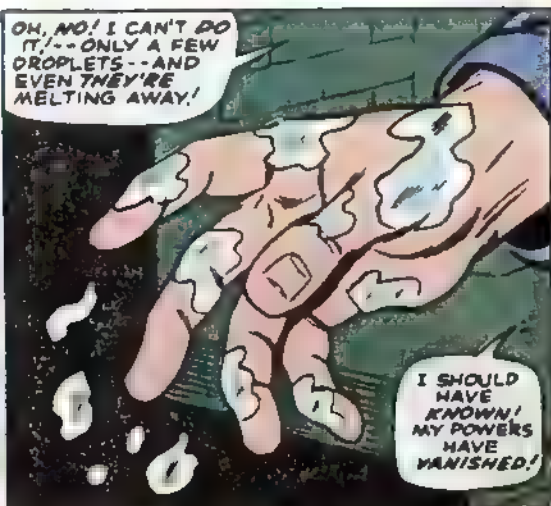




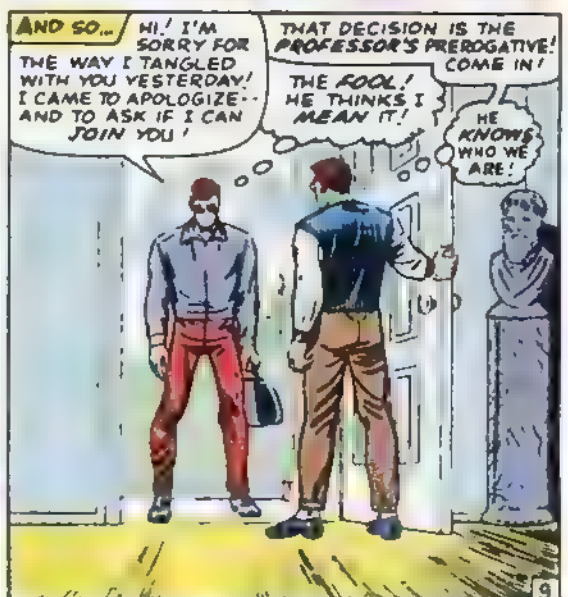
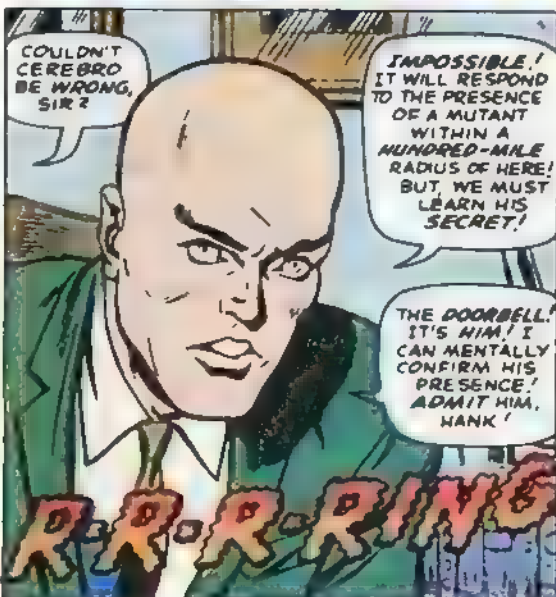
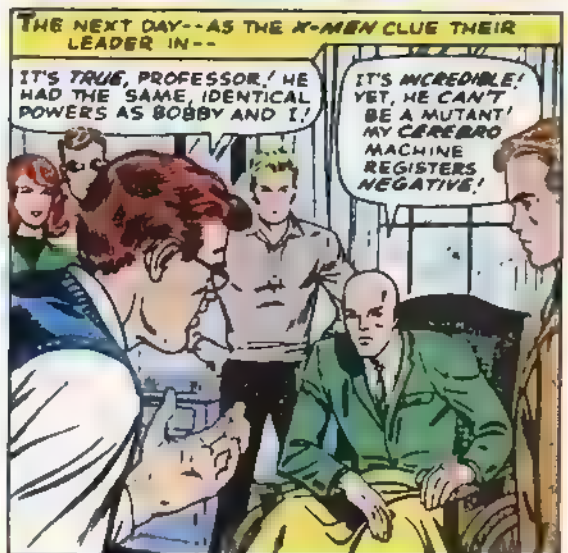
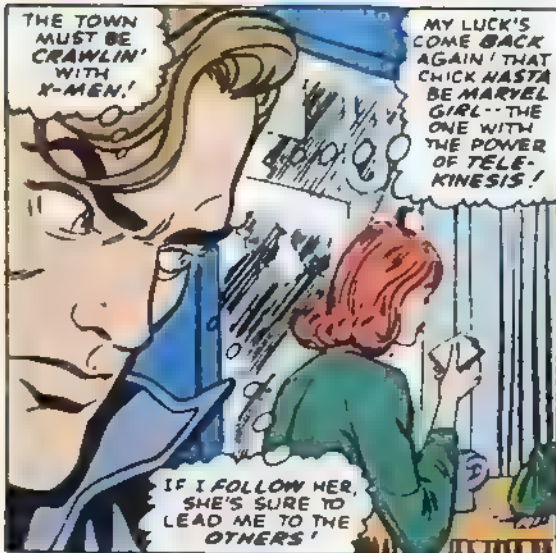
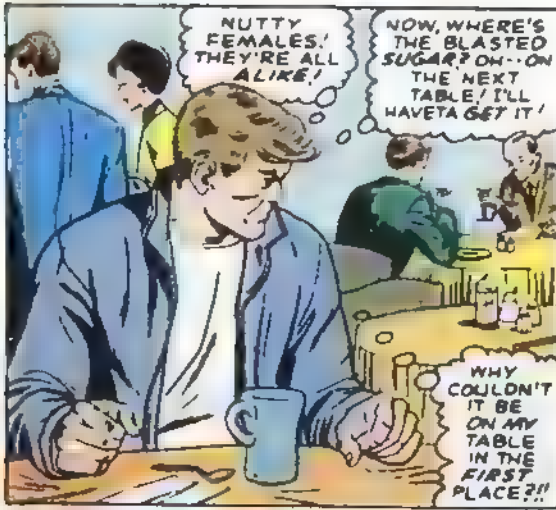




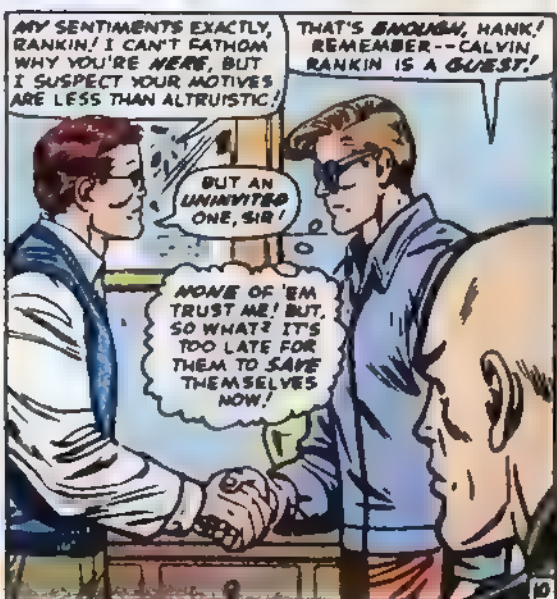
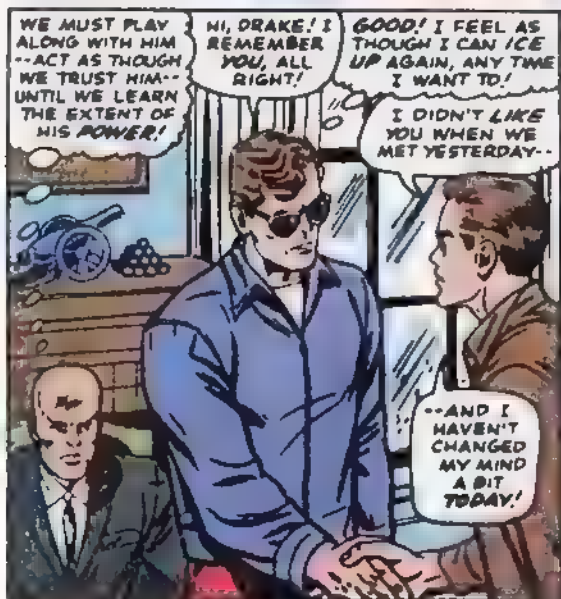
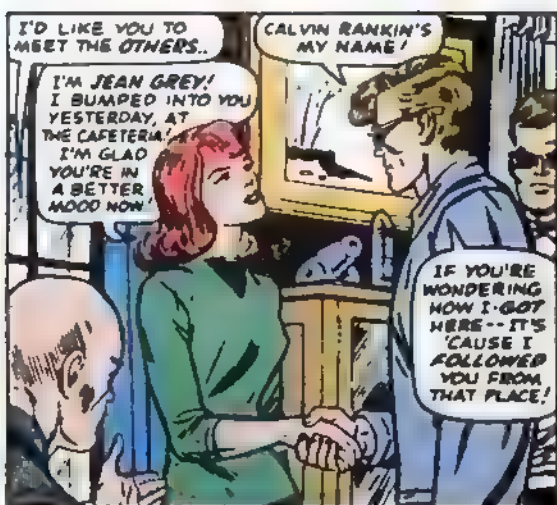
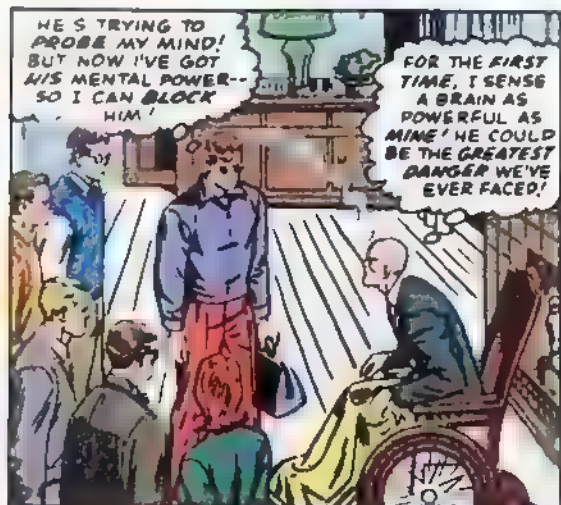




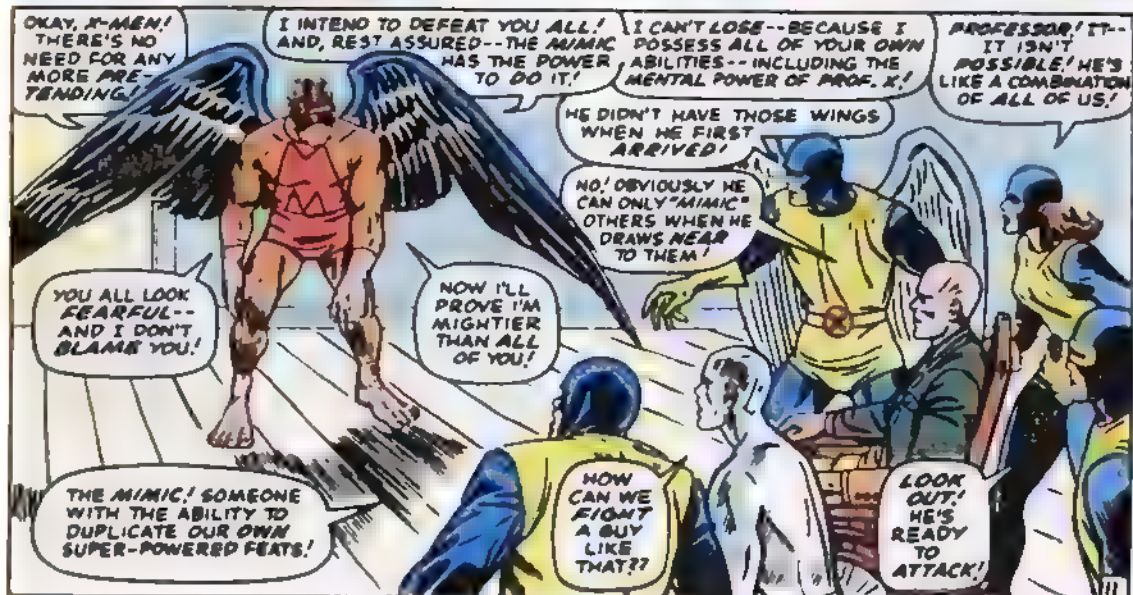
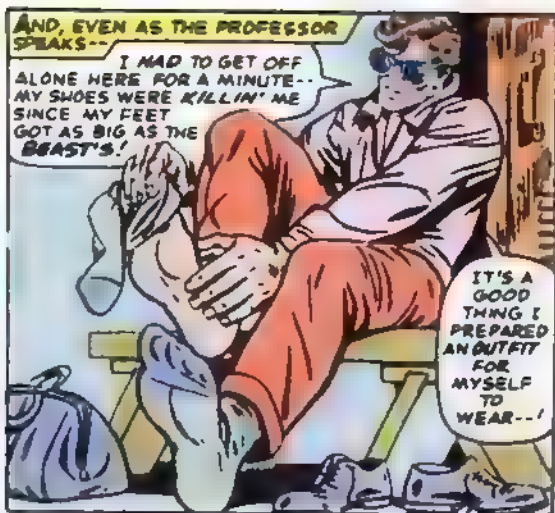
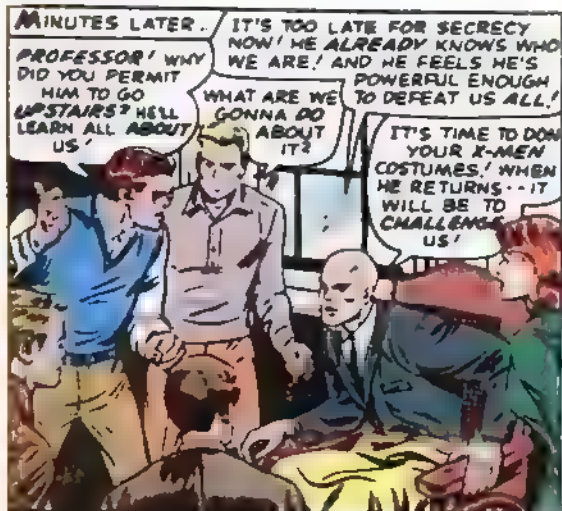












CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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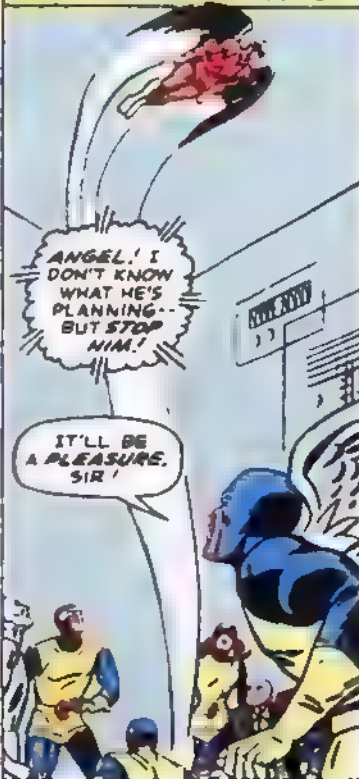
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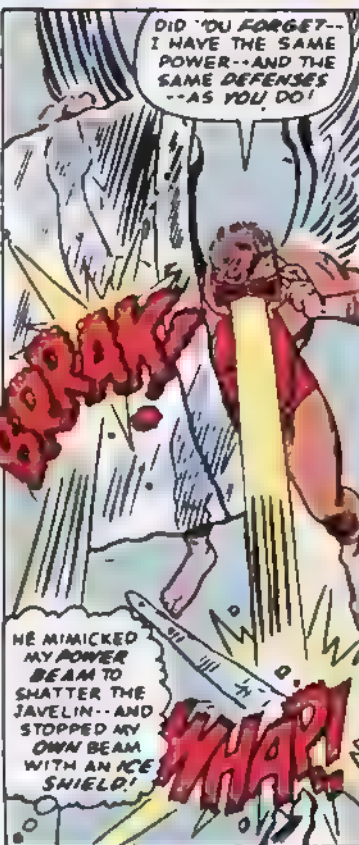
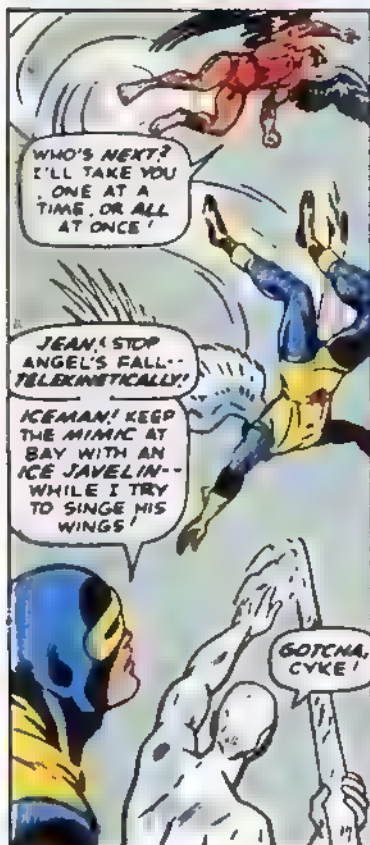
THEN, SUDDENLY, THE MIMIC HURTLER UPWARD, PROPELLED BY A LEAP OF BEAST-LIKE AGILITY--



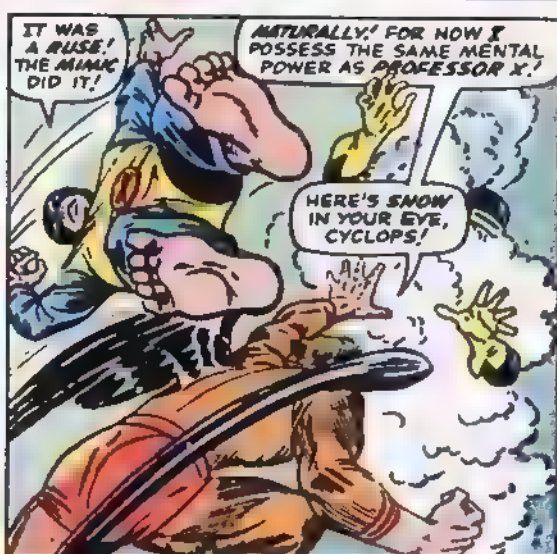
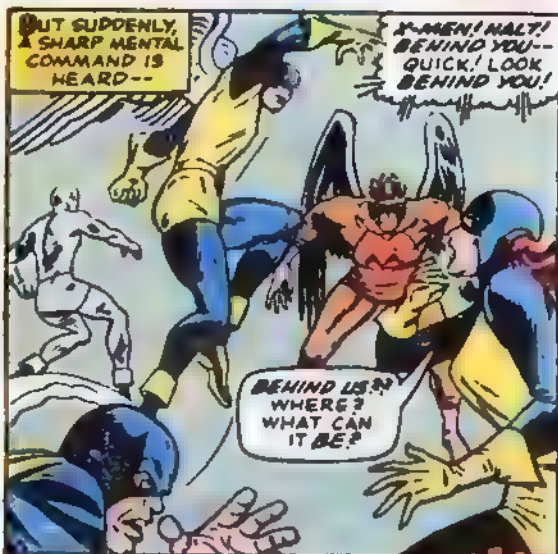
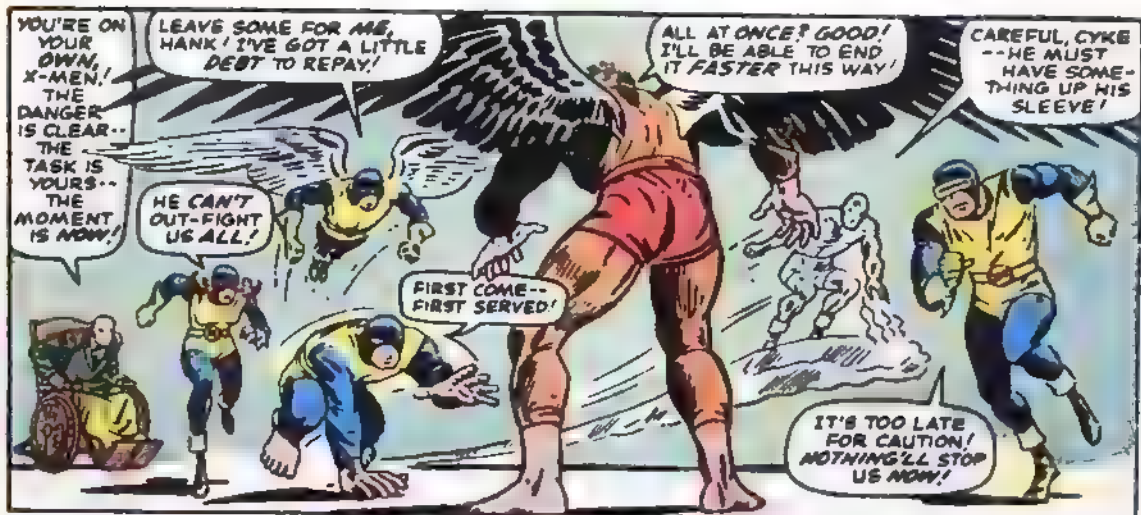
INSTANTLY, A MENTAL COMMAND FROM PROFESSOR X RINGS OUT--



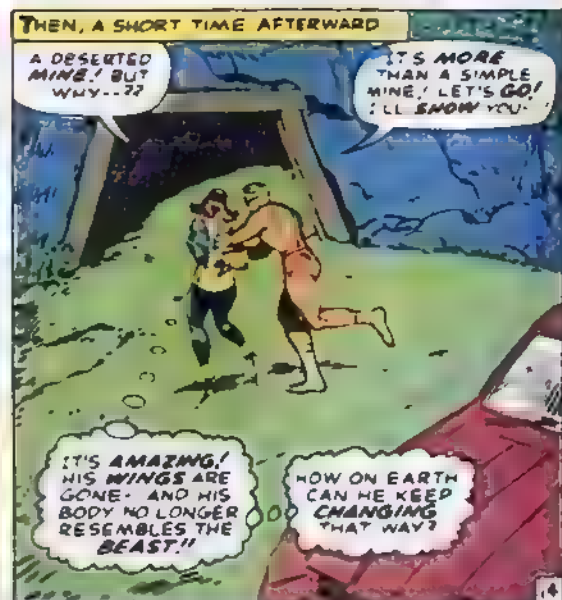
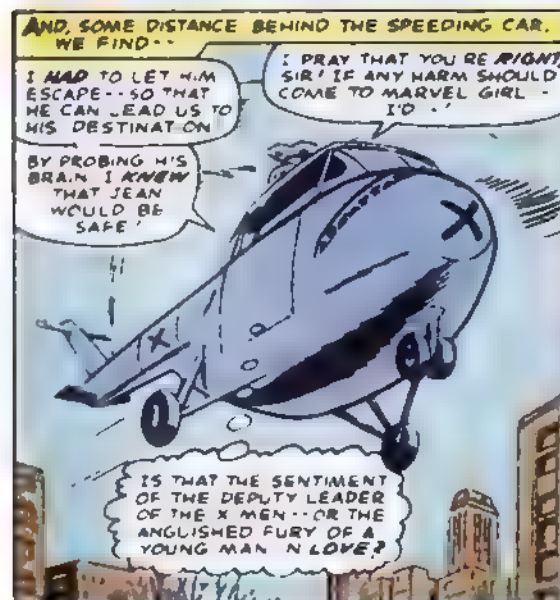
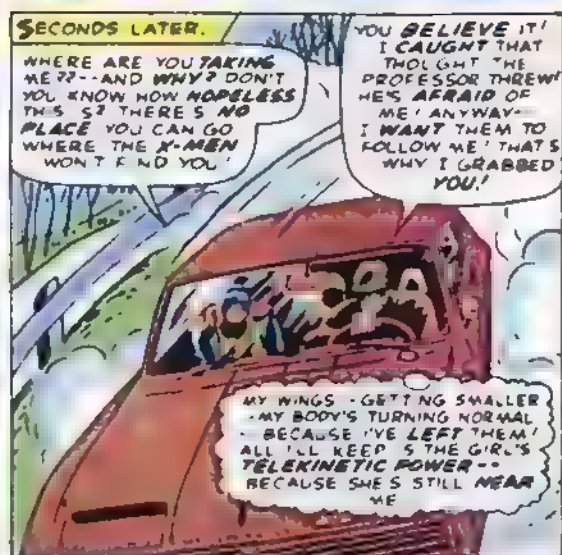
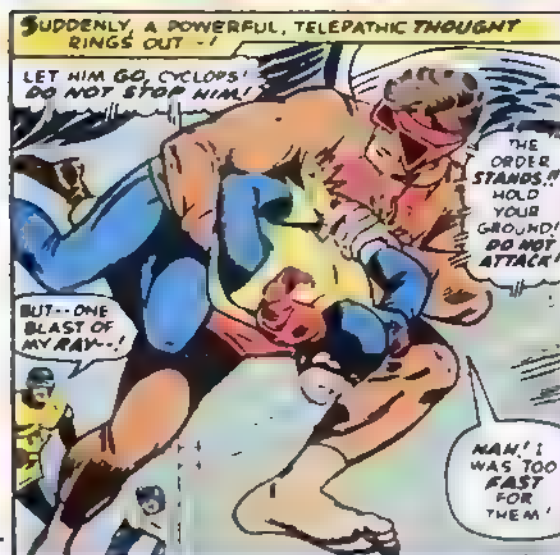
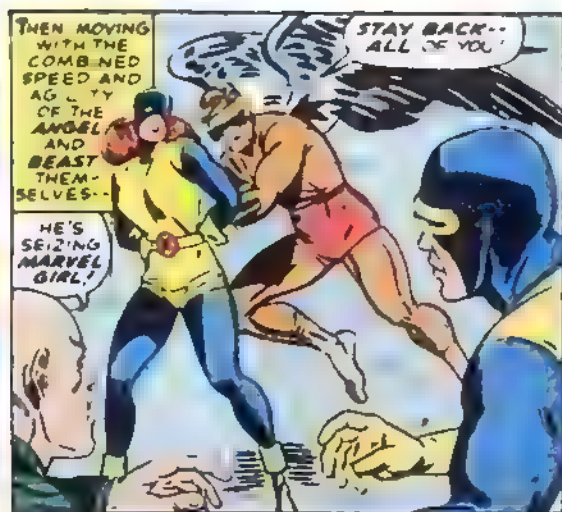
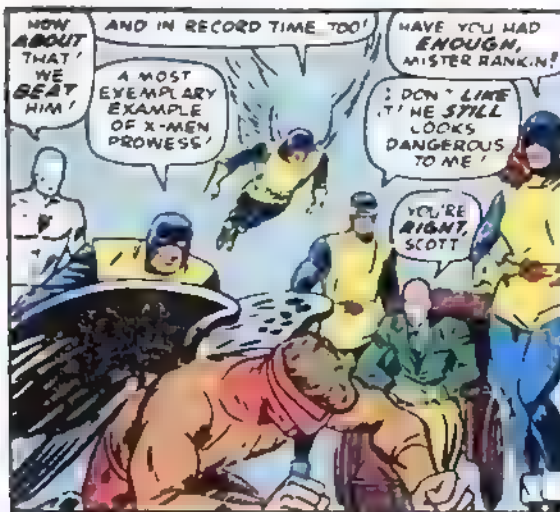
BUT BEFORE THE HIGH-FLYING ANGEL CAN REACH HIS PREY, THE MIMIC REVERSES HIMSELF IN FLIGHT, AND--



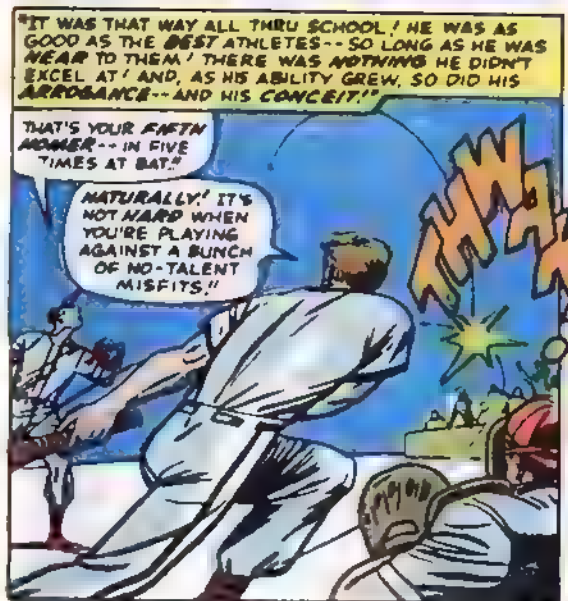
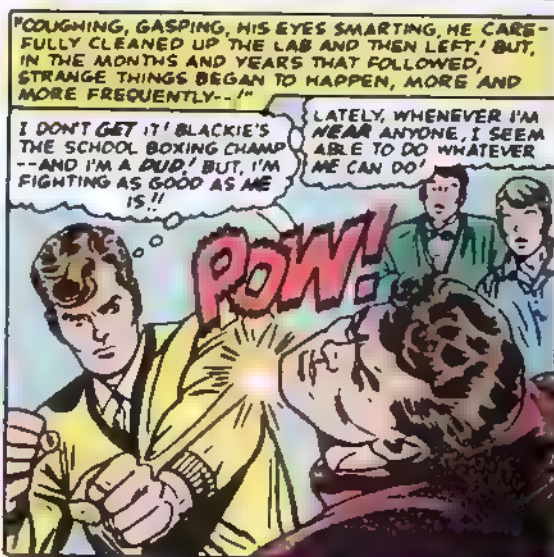
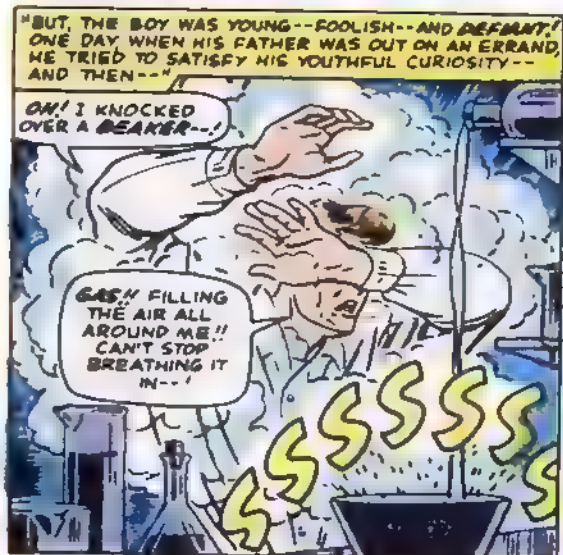
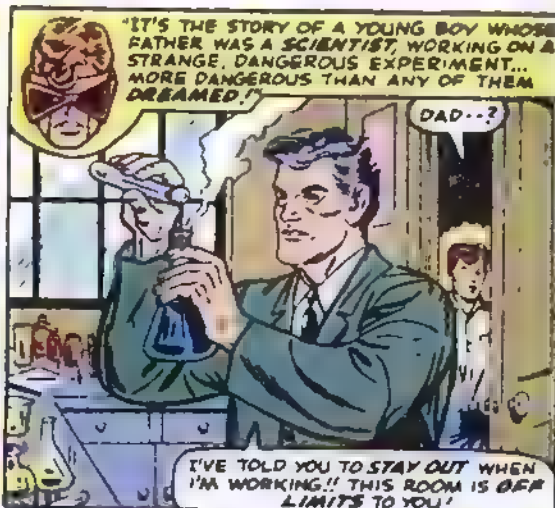
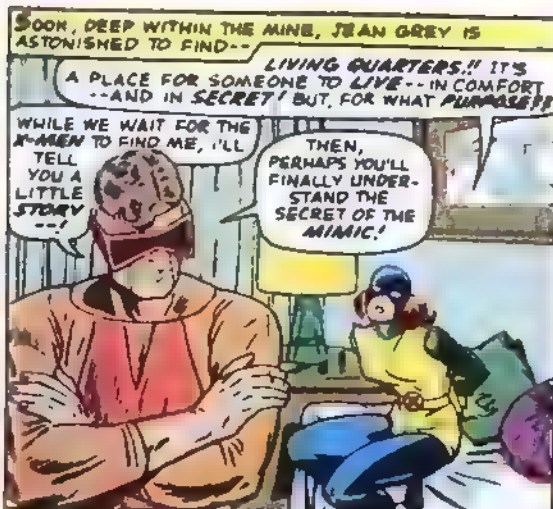














"BUT, THE BOY'S FATHER FINALLY BECAME AWARE OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED! HE KNEW MEN WOULD SOME DAY RISE AGAINST HIS SON--AND SO HE TOOK HIM TO A LONELY CAVE..."

WE WILL LIVE HERE UNTIL I'VE FOUND A WAY TO HELP YOU!

IF ONLY MY POWERS WOULD BE PERMANENT--AND NOT LEAVE ME WHEN I'M NO LONGER NEAR THE ONE I'M MIMICKING!

"FOR MONTHS THEY HID IN THE CAVE WHILE THE SCIENTIST BUILT A MACHINE--ONE WHICH WOULD MAKE THE BOY'S POWER LAST FOREVER! BUT, THE MACHINE DRAINED SO MUCH CURRENT, THAT IT SHORT-CIRCUITED EVERY FUSE IN THE COUNTY--!"

LISTEN! THE WARNING SIGNAL! SOMEONE IS COMING.

ACCORDING TO THE RADIO, PEOPLE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING HERE! THEY KNOW THERE ARE POWERFUL MACHINES OPERATING, BUT DON'T KNOW WHY!

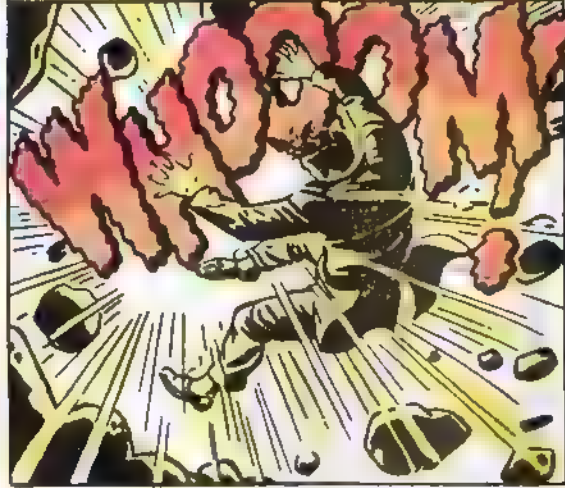
BEEP...BEEP...BEEP...BEEP...BEEP...

THEY'VE TRACED THE SOURCE OF THEIR POWER BREAKDOWN TO OUR CAVE! AN ANGRY, FEAR-CRAZED MOB IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING!

WE'VE GOT TO PROTECT OURSELVES! I'LL DETONATE THE MAIN EXPLOSIVE CACHE, SEALING OFF THE MINE ENTRANCE!

IF ONLY THEY'D WAITED A LITTLE LONGER--IT WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED!

"BUT, IN SETTING OFF THE EXPLOSIVES, THE SCIENTIST UNDERESTIMATED THE FORCE OF THE BLAST, AND--HE WAS UNABLE TO ESCAPE IN TIME--!"



"HOURS LATER, AFTER THE MOB HAD FINALLY DISPERSED, THE SON DUG HIMSELF TO FREEDOM--HIS HEART POUNDING WITH AN UNQUENCHABLE DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE--!"

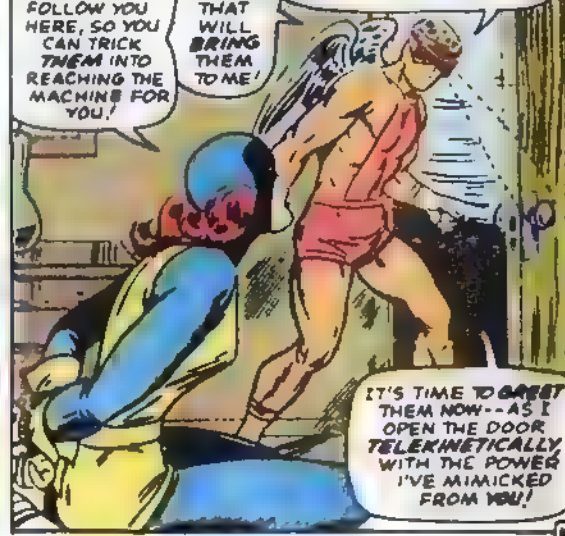
I'LL MAKE THEM PAY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, DAD! EVEN THOUGH YOUR MACHINE WAS BURIED UNDER ALL THE DEBRIS, I'LL FIND SOME WAY TO REACH IT AGAIN--!

--AND WHEN I DO, I'LL BECOME THE MIGHTIEST MAN IN THE WORLD! I'LL GAIN THE POWER OF EVERYONE I MEET--AND I'LL KEEP ALL THAT POWER--FOREVER!

THEN-- YOU WERE THAT BOY! AND YOU WANT THE X-MEN TO FOLLOW YOU HERE, SO YOU CAN TRICK THEM INTO REACHING THE MACHINE FOR YOU!

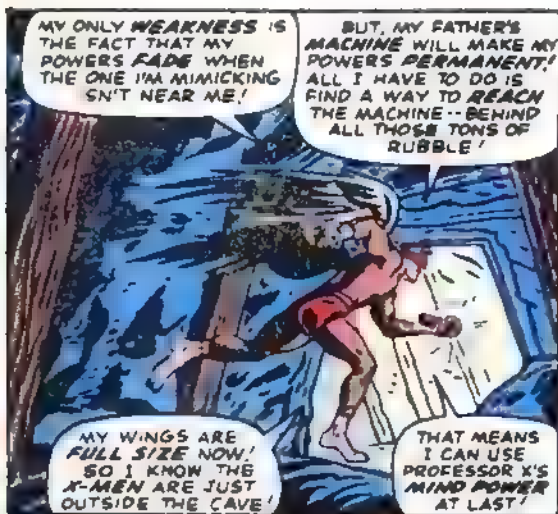
RIGHT! AND YOU'RE THE BAIT THAT WILL BRING THEM TO ME!

ANNN! MY WINGS ARE BEGINNING TO SPOUT AGAIN! THAT MEANS THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER!



IT'S TIME TO BAIT THEM NOW--AS I OPEN THE DOOR TELEKINETICALLY WITH THE POWER I'VE MIMICKED FROM YOU!



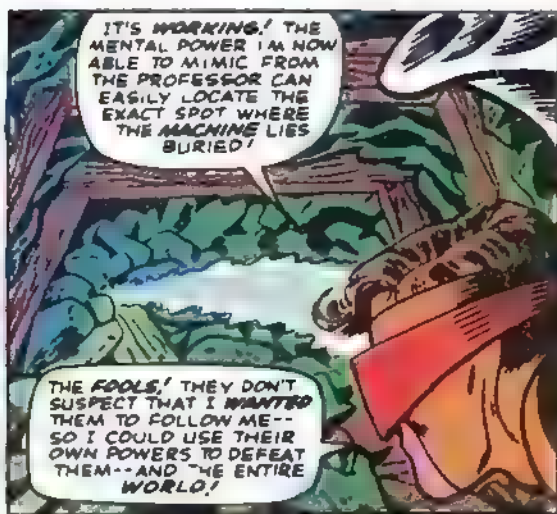


MY ONLY WEAKNESS IS THE FACT THAT MY POWERS FADE WHEN THE ONE I'M MIMICKING SN'T NEAR ME!

BUT, MY FATHER'S MACHINE WILL MAKE MY POWERS PERMANENT! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND A WAY TO REACH THE MACHINE--BEHIND ALL THOSE TONS OF RUBBLE!

MY WINGS ARE FULL SIZE NOW! SO I KNOW THE X-MEN ARE JUST OUTSIDE THE CAVE!

THAT MEANS I CAN USE PROFESSOR X'S MIND POWER AT LAST!



IT'S WORKING! THE MENTAL POWER I'M NOW ABLE TO MIMIC FROM THE PROFESSOR CAN EASILY LOCATE THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE MACHINE LIES BURIED!

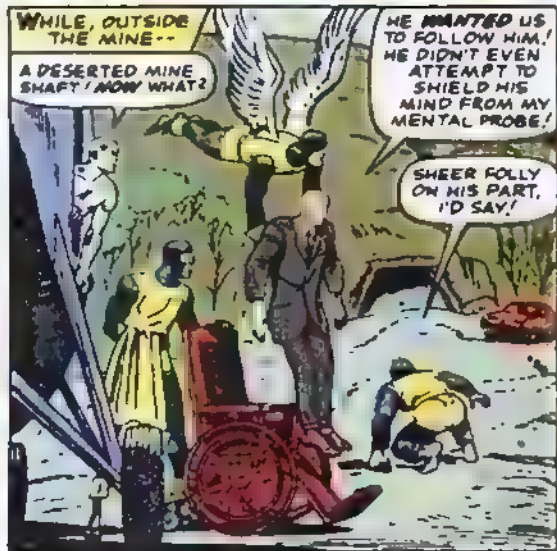
THE FOOLS! THEY DON'T SUSPECT THAT I WANTED THEM TO FOLLOW ME--SO I COULD USE THEIR OWN POWERS TO DEFEAT THEM--AND THE ENTIRE WORLD!



HAH! I KNEW CYCLOPS WOULD HAVE TO BE WITH THEM! NOW, BY MIMICKING HIS FORCE BEAM, I CAN BLAST MY WAY THRU THE DEBRIS IN MINUTES!

JUST A FEW MINUTES MORE, AND I'LL TRIUMPH OVER ALL MANKIND!

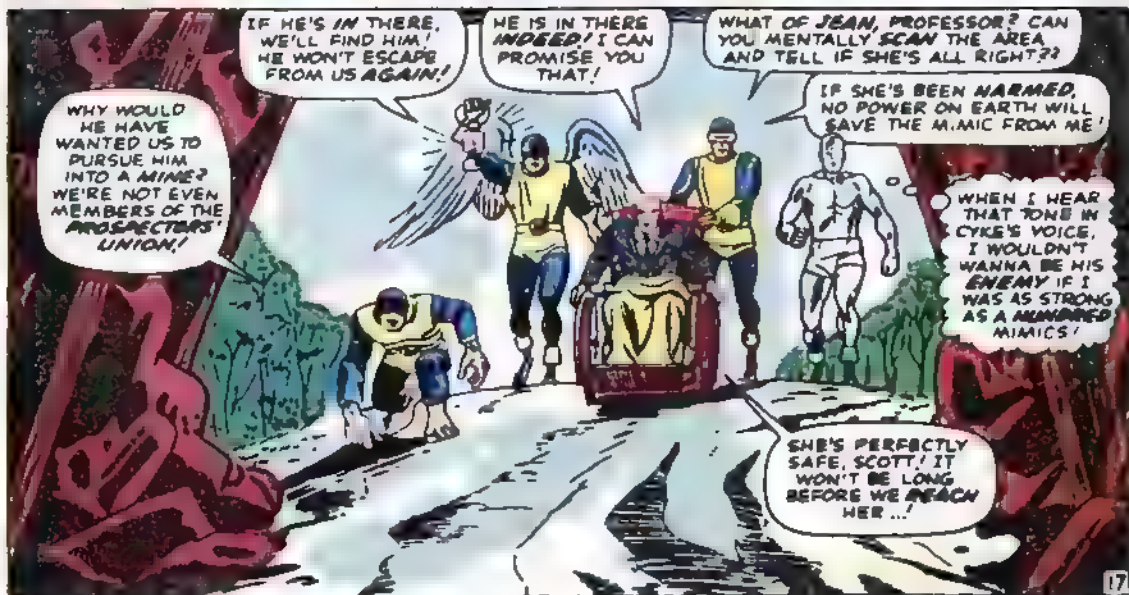
WHRRRAK!



WHILE, OUTSIDE THE MINE-- A DESERTED MINE SHAFT! NOW WHAT?

HE WANTED US TO FOLLOW HIM! HE DIDN'T EVEN ATTEMPT TO SHIELD HIS MIND FROM MY MENTAL PROBE!

SHEER FOLLY ON HIS PART, I'D SAY!



IF HE'S IN THERE, WE'LL FIND HIM! HE WON'T ESCAPE FROM US AGAIN!

WE IS IN THERE INDEED! I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT!

WHAT OF JEAN, PROFESSOR? CAN YOU MENTALLY SCAN THE AREA AND TELL IF SHE'S ALL RIGHT??

IF SHE'S BEEN NARMED, NO POWER ON EARTH WILL SAVE THE M.M.I.C FROM ME!

WHEN I HEAR THAT TONE IN CYKE'S VOICE, I WOULDN'T WANNA BE HIS ENEMY IF I WAS AS STRONG AS A MINERED MIMICS!

SHE'S PERFECTLY SAFE, SCOTT! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE REACH HER ...!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE







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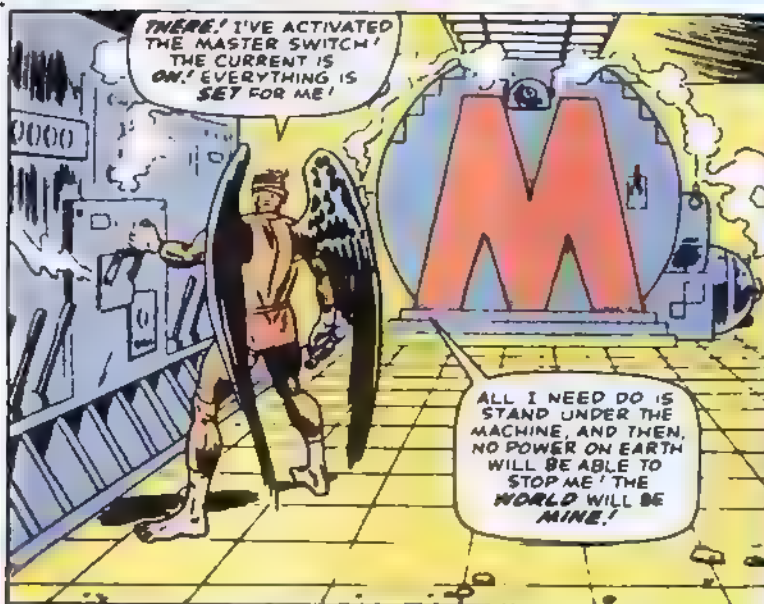
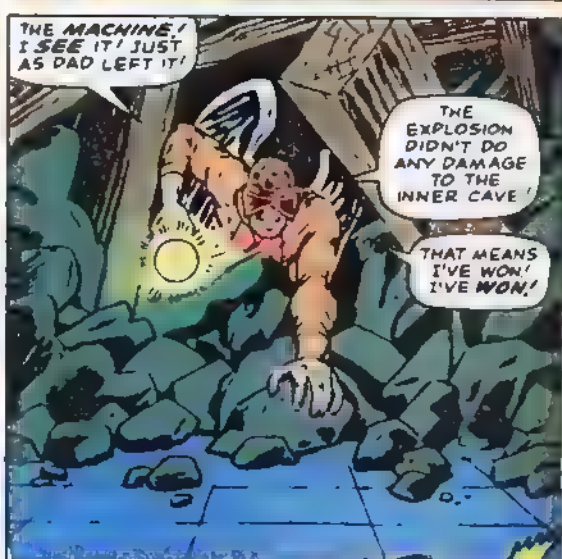
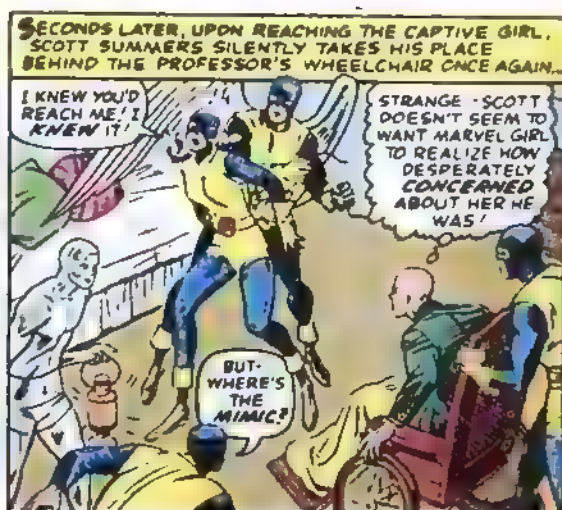
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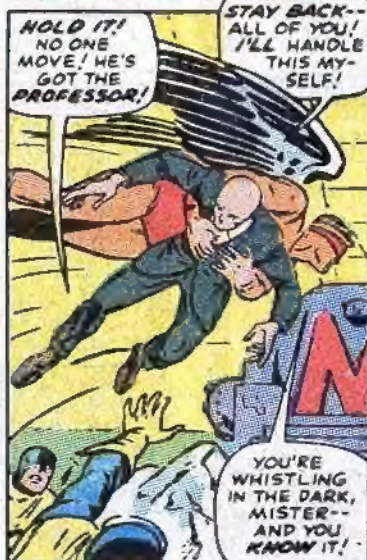
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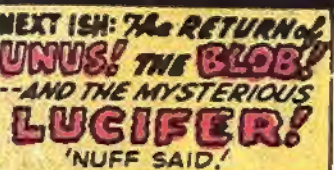
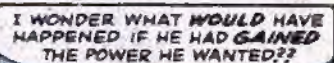








SO THAT'S WHY  
YOU WANTED US  
TO LET HIM USE  
THE MACHINE!  
YOU SENSED IT  
ALL THE TIME!





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51M





## Do you have art talent worth developing? Take our free test and see

If you have ever wondered whether you had art talent, here is your chance to find out. The founders of Famous Artists School have put together what many artists and educators consider to be the most revealing test of art ability ever devised. It is offered to you free.

### Designed for people uncertain of their ability

The people who take this Art Talent Test are of all ages and occupations. Most of them have little or no previous art training. By professional standards, their drawings may be awkward and amateurish. But the ones who possess the gift of art talent reveal it in many ways. Through simple little exercises, they show the inborn sense of design, the feeling for composition, the ability to observe, and the lively imagination which are such important ingredients of art talent.

The reliability of this method of screening, as well as the effectiveness of the training, has been proven again and again by the impressive record of success of our students and graduates.

### They passed the test and went on to become successful artists

When Anthony Fotia took the Art Talent Test, he was a mail clerk, "stuck" in a low-pay routine job. Today, he's an artist for a printing firm, doing exciting creative work. Kathleen Gironda went from a salesgirl in a department store to a fashion illustrator in the same store. Virginia Bartier, a farmer's wife and mother of three, now sells just about everything she paints. These are just a few of the literally hundreds of "success stories" our students report to us.

So if you love to sketch or dabble in paints

—and have often wondered if you "have what it takes" to become a well-paid commercial artist or sparetime professional painter—why not seize this opportunity to find out? All you need is a pencil and a half-hour of your time. With your special interest, it will be one of the most intriguing and enjoyable half-hours you ever spent.

### What the Talent Test covers

First, you will be shown ten pairs of simple designs and asked to pick the one in each pair that has "a feeling of rightness" about it. Then you will see twenty pairs of pictures, and check which composition in each pair is more pleasing. You'll be asked to do original sketches to demonstrate your imagination and powers of observation. And in similar ways, your feeling for mood, form, movement, and so on will be tested.

When you complete the test and mail it back, it will be graded free by a member of the School's staff. If you receive a passing grade (and we must warn you that many don't), or can offer sufficient evidence of art talent, you will then be eligible to enroll. You may choose whichever of our courses is best suited to your goals.

### Courses offer personal instruction

These courses were especially designed for talented people who can't leave their families or jobs for art training away from home. The 12 famous artists who started the School over 19 years ago contributed all their lifetime secrets of art technique to what they believe to be the finest art lessons ever created. They took time out from their own busy careers and made thousands of special drawings to demonstrate each point. Then they devised a method of constructive criticism that is as personal as tutoring. Your instructor, who is himself required to be a practicing professional artist, spends up to several hours on just one of your assignments. He actually draws or paints his suggestions for improvement, and then "talks" to you by letter, dictating a long, friendly message of specific advice and encouragement.

You will receive an interesting brochure about our School and its revolutionary methods along with your free Art Talent Test. If you have ever dreamed of success in art, and wondered if it were possible, why not mail the coupon at left for both the Talent Test and the brochure right now?

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I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and information about your courses.

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